

Talal Al Hassan returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan returned home Sunday from the United States after heading the Jordanian delegation to the 49th session of the U.N. General Assembly. In an arrival statement Mr. Hassan said he met with several Arab and foreign ministers of foreign affairs and briefed them on Jordan's vital and important role in the Middle East peace process and his Majesty King Hussein's efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He also said that he referred to developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the Peace Process and explained the economic challenges facing Jordan. Mr. Al Hassan also said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's speech before the General Assembly received the appreciation of all participating delegations. He said the Crown Prince focused on Jordan's role in the peace process and its untiring efforts to push the Middle East Peace process forward. While in the United States, Mr. Al Hassan chaired a meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers to crystallise a pan-Arab stand on all important issues, including Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, the refugees problem, sovereignty and self determination issues.

Jordan Times

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Tension rises as Iraq insists on its stand

Bedouns set up protest camps at Iraq-Kuwait border; Iraqi troops said 12kms from frontier

Combined agency dispatches

THE MILITARY build-up in the Gulf continued Sunday as Iraqi troops were reported closer to the border with Kuwait and American forces were being rushed to the emirate amid confusing signals over the latest twist to the Gulf crisis that began when Iraq invaded Kuwait four years ago.

Kuwait moved the bulk of its 18,000-strong army to its northern border while Baghdad proclaimed "the right to take any measures" to defend itself against a foreign "plot" to crush it.

The United States, which already had troops and ships on the move, has also sent a massive contingent of air force and navy attack aircraft to the Gulf region, Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday. In addition, a British frigate, HMS Cornwall, arrived off Kuwait City Sunday morning.

"All in all, this is a formidable military force," Mr. Perry said. U.S. officials reported that the movement of 20,000 Republican Guards towards the Kuwaiti border had raised the number of Iraqi troops in the area to 64,000. Some 700 tanks were also deployed or heading south.

Pentagon officials said Sunday that Iraqi troops were continuing to gather near the border, but did not provide numbers.

Baghdad insists the troop movements do not threaten Kuwait. But while within Iraq's rights, the deployment of troops near the Kuwaiti border has elicited a quick response from countries chastened by Iraq's surprise invasion of the emirate four years ago.

Mr. Perry himself refused to join speculation that Iraq's actions are just a bluff intended to win a relaxation of bruising U.N. sanctions punishing Baghdad for occupying Kuwait.

Kuwait, which signed defence pacts with the United States, Britain, Russia and France after the 1990 invasion, began moving tanks and 15,000 of its 18,000 troops to the desert border, a highly placed Kuwaiti official said. The northern half of the emirate was a restricted military zone as of 10 p.m. Saturday local time (2100 GMT Saturday), Kuwait's interior ministry said.

Thousands of people, meanwhile, were camped near the Iraqi side of the frontier, apparently herded there by Baghdad and directed to stage demonstrations to heat up the pressure on the border, U.N. officials said.

Iraq said they were from among the tens of thousands of stateless Arabs displaced after the Gulf war.

But Kuwait on Sunday claimed they were actually Iraqi soldiers dressed in civilian clothes.

"Let Saddam Hussein not be deceived he can embarrass us with this situation," the information minister, Sheikh Saud Al Sabah, told a news conference.

Besselin Kostov, spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission established after the 1991 Gulf war, said the Arabs do not appear to be armed. But he said Iraq had notified the United Nations that as many as 20,000 of them were expected to stage an anti-Kuwaiti protest.

Jordan voices concern, warns against Arab use of arms against Arabs

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan said Sunday that the Jordanian leadership and government continue to observe with deep concern the latest developments in the region and reports about Iraqi military movements southwards and the possibility of a deteriorating situation that would never be in the Arab Nation's interest.

"Jordan, represented by its leadership, government and people, out of keenness over Arab interests, Arab blood and destiny, stands with all its strength, against the use of arms by Arabs against Arab brothers under any circumstances and under any pretext," said an official statement.

"While it declares its continued sympathy with the Iraqi people and their right to life, security and stability, guaranteeing human rights and free from suffering, the Kingdom stands firmly against any threat by any Arab brother against another," said the statement.

"The Arab Nation has been suffering as a consequence of the Gulf war and its negative results since 1990 until today. These consequences have brought about the loss of many opportunities that would have been utilised towards deepening solidarity among Arab countries," it said. "They have also opened the door for external interventions in Arab affairs and problems. We have always called for resolution of problems within the Arab community through dialogue in a brotherly spirit among the members of the same nation."

"Jordan, which is always keen on preserving the life of Iraqi troops and Iraqi people as well as the Kuwaiti forces and the Kuwaiti people and the interests of all Arab brothers now wishes that the issue would be tackled through a different course of action — through efforts aimed at building confidence among the brothers rather than undermining inter-Arab relations. Confidence should be based on strong foundations that cannot be shaken by anything. Jordan would like to see constructive dialogue taking place to remove the injustice that was done to the people of this nation, which should be helped to regain its solidarity."

"Jordan would like to guarantee non-interference by any Arab state in the internal affairs of any other, and Arabs refraining from any resort to the use of arms to settle differences among brothers because Arab arms should never be used against Arabs."

"Jordan will unequivocally stand against any Arab party which violates this principle." after the 1991 Gulf war, were demanding the right to return to the emirate, where they had lived for decades, and the release of relatives in Kuwaiti jails.

He added their return to the emirate would come about "not through force but by international pressure."

Asked about reports that protesters were advancing on the border, the sheikh said: "The camp is south of the Iraqi town of Basra. But with their numbers growing day by day, they need more room and have to pitch their tents where they can."

He refused to reveal how many bedoun tribesmen had gathered for the protest except that the sheikh said: "The camp is south of the Iraqi town of Basra. But with their numbers growing day by day, they need more room and have to pitch their tents where they can."



Baghdad residents bargain for live chickens as power supply failure took hold on the public in fear over a potential conflict and subsequent the Iraqi capital (AFP photo)

Israel and Jordan go into detail of projects

EILAT (AFP) — Israeli and Jordanian negotiators held four days of talks in this Red Sea resort from Monday in a bid to put some flesh on the bones of a framework for peace, officials said Sunday.

"The delegations will get down to details and try to give some shape to the peace projects," a foreign ministry official said.

Three main subjects are on the agenda for the talks led by Israel's Elyakim Rubinstein and Faysal Tarawneh of Jordan:

— Amman's demand for the return of 385.91 square kilometres of land;

— Amman's demand for a greater share of water re-

Israel urges more Syrian moves

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel called for more confidence-building measures from Syria as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived on Sunday at the start of a new Mideast peace mission.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin welcomed Syrian Foreign Minister Fawzi Al Sharaa's first interview with Israel Television, officials said.

"The fact that Sharaa gave an interview to an Israeli journalist is a step in the right direction," the officials quoted Mr. Rabin as telling his cabinet.

But Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said the government was looking for Mr. Christopher to obtain more gestures from Damascus following the interview.

"The development is quite important although it's not enough," Mr. Beilin told Voice of Israel radio.

"Sharaa was an important step forward although there were some questionable parts of the interview," Mr. Beilin said.

"Now we need to see some more confidence-building measures."

Mr. Rabin also noted that Mr. Sharaa had said nothing new.

Israeli officials have called for a summit between Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

But Mr. Sharaa dismissed such an encounter as "dramatic, theatrical and premature" before the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Israel and Syria was "closer than ever," Mr. Beilin said, but added, "the breakthrough is not something that happens on one visit. It's an ongoing process."

Mr. Sharaa promised Israel a new era of peace in return for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in an interview from Washington, which was broadcast Friday.

"We have done all that is necessary in order to convince... that peace is coming and we are not wasting our time," he told Israelis. "We have as much interest in peace as you."

"The faster the withdrawal from the Golan takes place, the faster the fruits of peace will appear."

"I think the common denominator between Israel and Syria has still not been formed... it is now in the hands of the Americans to bridge the gaps that are still there and which are still quite wide," Mr. Beilin said.

Mr. Rabin has proposed a token Israeli pullback on the Golan followed by a three-year trial period of full normalisation of relations before any significant withdrawal, which would be put to a referendum in Israel.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper, which reported on Friday that the Israeli army wants to hold on to a north-south line of Golan cliffs overlooking the Jewish state, said on Sunday Syria wanted a full pull-out that would take no more than a year.

The Syrian government newspaper Tishreen said in an editorial on Sunday that Israel was obstructing peace by failing to give a clear commitment to pull out of all the Golan and South Lebanon.

"Without such an undertaking, the peace process will not make the progress desired and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will remain liable to deadlock," it said.

Mr. Christopher, drove straight up to his hotel in occupied Jerusalem after landing at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport, had no meetings scheduled until Monday



Jordanian and Palestinian delegations meet in Amman on Sunday (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Jordan, PNA resume talks on coordination

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho resumed talks on Sunday on cooperation in various spheres and officials described the discussions as frank and clear.

The talks come after a period of a pronounced strain in relations over non-coordination in the Middle East peace process and a controversy over Jordan's religious role in Arab East Jerusalem.

Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have said that several meetings between senior PNA emissaries had managed to settle the differences and that the way was clear for agreements during the current talks.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, minister of education and minister of state, who headed the Jordanian side to the meeting, said one of the

issues tackled during the first session was a working paper defining the positions of the two sides on the issue of displaced persons.

"We are trying to bring views closer towards common positions and convictions on the various issues, including the political, economic and commercial dimensions in addition to documents (of Palestinians living in the West Bank)," Mr. Rawabdeh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the meeting.

He said the two sides would tackle economic and administrative issues on Monday.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, minister of culture in the PNA who led the Palestinian side to the meetings, said: "Several pending issues need more coordination and discussion with a view to enhancing bilateral relations."

Mr. Abed Rabbo conceded that there were differences in views but said they were only normal. "We are keen on

starting a frank dialogue that would strengthen our common interests," he said.

He said the issue of Awqaf in the occupied territories was not discussed Sunday but that it was open for discussions to serve the interests of the two sides.

Jordan announced last month that it was severing all links with the Islamic shrines and Awqaf in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem. The PLO has welcomed that move.

Omar Khatib, acting chief of the Palestinian mission here, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the PNA delegation, which includes at least six ministers in the self-rule authority, was authorised to sign agreements with Jordan.

"It is imperative that we sign agreements," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Abed Rabbo himself, in an arrival statement, said

Correction

Due to a transcribing error, the Jordan Times yesterday incorrectly quoted HRH Crown Prince Hassan as telling a CNN interviewer that Jordan had "agreed with the Vatican on interim units within the walls" of Jerusalem.

What the Crown Prince actually said was: "As we agreed with the Vatican on intramural within the walls of the Old City, and I believe that it is practically important that in the year 2000 when we celebrate the bi-millennium jointly as believers in God rather than seeing some Christians celebrating with some Jews. I think that it is vitally important that we do not separate religion from politics but we should enhance the chances of peace..."

The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

Cedras, Biamby may resign today

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Haiti's military leader Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and army Chief of Staff Brigadier General Philippe Biamby will resign their posts on Monday at about 10 a.m., a source close to the Haitian army said on Sunday.

He also said it appeared the two would leave the country and provisional President Emile Jonassaint would resign on Monday but that he could not confirm either event.

"I can tell you that it is confirmed that both General Biamby and General Cedras will resign from their posts tomorrow," said the source, who asked not to be named. He said second in command Brigadier General Jean-Claude Duperval would take control of the military. Exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, due to return to Haiti on Saturday,

named Gen. Duperval to replace Gen. Cedras in December 1993 and has given no indication he would withdraw the nomination.

Asked if Gen. Cedras and Gen. Biamby would leave the country, the source said, "It seems so" but that could not be confirmed.

He said he could not confirm Mr. Jonassaint would also resign Monday, but said, "it is probable."

CNN also said Gen. Cedras will resign Monday and will be temporarily replaced by Gen. Duperval.

The news network said Gen. Biamby would also resign and be replaced by Col. Valmond.

The White House did not make any comment Sunday on the CNN report.

On Saturday, a group of Haitian military officers travelled to Washington to meet with Mr. Aristide, who

summoned the officers to help prepare his return to Haiti, U.S. officials said.

One member of the military triumvirate that deposed Aristide in a bloody Sept. 30, 1991 coup, Port-au-Prince police chief Joseph Michel Francois, has already fled Haiti for the Dominican Republic.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he could not confirm that Gen. Cedras would resign on Monday but was confident he would go by an Oct. 15 deadline.

"I can't confirm as to when Gen. Cedras is leaving, but... I am confident that he and Gen. Biamby will be leaving on or before the 15th," he said when asked about reports that Gen. Cedras would quit on Monday.

Mr. Christopher, in Israel at the start of a new Middle East peace shuttle, said his

confidence was based on conversations U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and Chief of Staff John Shalikashvili held with Gen. Cedras on Saturday.

Under a deal brokered by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter last month, Haiti's top military leaders are to resign by Oct. 15 and Gen. Aristide, whom they ousted three years ago, is to return.

America's military views its mission to oversee the restoration of democracy in Haiti lasting until at least until December, with no deadline set by Washington from a full withdrawal from the Caribbean nation.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the United States was unlikely to hand over that mission to United Nations peacekeepers until after legislative elections.

(Continued on page 7)

Kurds say Iraqi troops moving north

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraqi troops have moved towards Kurdish-held territory in the north of the country in the last few days, Kurdish sources in Turkey said on Sunday.

"We have to look on this as a serious development," said a Kurdish source with good contacts in the north of Iraq. An Iraqi engineering battalion began moving on secondary roads towards areas held by Kurdish guerrillas north of the city of Mosul in the middle of last week, the source said.

The troops had reached the fringe of Kurdish-held territory some 70 kilometres north-west of Mosul on Saturday. The battalion is normally 500 to 700 men.

A mountain range stands between the battalion and highly-armed Kurdish guerrillas who, protected by Western air power, have held much of northern Iraq since shortly after the 1991 Gulf war.

"Iraqi Kurds say the army often holds manoeuvres in the area to provoke them."

Western governments say Iraq has strengthened its forces at its southern border with Kuwait.

Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, attended a meeting in Erbil along with officials from the other main Kurdish parties including the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Iraqi National Congress coalition of Iraqi opposition groups.

The meeting was called "to discuss (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's steps and to take precautions to put our militia along the border in a state of alert," a spokesman said.

Turkey meanwhile called on Iraq to "avoid tension" in the area.

The Turkish government had told Baghdad it "felt strongly about the need to safeguard peace in the re-

gion," the foreign ministry said Sunday reporting a meeting Saturday between Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ozdemir Sanberk and Iraq's ambassador Majvel Al Tikriti.

Mr. Tikriti also informed Ankara about talks last week in Baghdad with Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. commission charged with disarming Iraq after the Gulf war.

Iraqis were torn between fear of another war and anger at the United States on Sunday as the two enemies became locked in another showdown.

The Iraqi public was able to read for the first time on Sunday reports of thousands of elite Iraqi troops deploying near the border with Kuwait, and U.S. threats of military retaliation as Washington sent 4,000 troops and warships to the Gulf.

"The prevailing feeling is that we have to act" to end an international embargo imposed on Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, one Baghdad resident told AFP.

"It is a question of dignity. Iraq has cooperated with the United Nations but after four years nothing has changed," he said.

"The embargo is still as crushing and poverty even bleaker."

Iraq warned it would cease cooperation with the United Nations if it was dissatisfied with a report scheduled for Monday on its compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions, which ordered the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad says it has met its commitments and sanctions should be lifted.

Iraq's economy has been crippled by the embargo and rations of some basic food stuffs were recently slashed by up to half.

Many Iraqis blame the United States for the U.N.'s refusal so far to lift or ease the embargo.



RALLY OF PHARAOHS: French brothers Schlessers drive their buggy during the Pharaoh's Rally in the Naqab desert special stage. It is the first time in the rally's 12-year history

that competitors crossed from Egypt to Israel. Israelis therefore call the stage in Israel the "Rally of Peace" (AFP photo)

Tehran protests EU invitation to Rushdie

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, in a protest to German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, has said an invitation to British author Salman Rushdie to meet European Union (EU) foreign ministers, was a gesture against Muslims.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said the protest was made by Iranian Ambassador to Germany Hussein Mousavian over the invitation to Mr. Rushdie, who was ordered killed by the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini because of perceived blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

IRNA said on Saturday night that Mr. Mousavian, in a letter to Mr. Kinkel, said the invitation was considered by the world Muslims "not merely as support for Rushdie himself, but as support for the anti-Islam irreverence."

The German foreign ministry said on Wednesday the EU had decided to offer Mr. Rushdie a meeting with foreign ministers of its so-called troika — current EU President Germany, its predecessor Greece, and Germany's successor France.

Mr. Mousavian called on the EU to revise its decision on Mr. Rushdie which would "damage the image of Europe in the Islamic" states, the agency said.

Indian-born Rushdie has been in hiding since 1989 when Ayatollah Khomeini condemned him to death for alleged blasphemy.

The German newspaper Tageszeitung said on Wednesday the German airline Lufthansa refused to carry Mr. Rushdie because it considered him a security risk.

British Airways has a standing ban on carrying Mr.

Rushdie as a passenger for security reasons.

A news magazine reported Saturday, Iran uses its embassy in Bonn as the European headquarters of its secret services, directing from there attacks on dissidents.

The weekly Spiegel, quoting from what it said was a report by German intelligence, said Tehran's secret service officials in the embassy in Bonn appeared responsible for the murder of four dissident Kurdish leaders in a Berlin restaurant in September 1992.

Four Iranians and a Lebanese man are standing trial for the slaying and prosecutors have implicated Iran's intelligence in the attack.

Iranian agents based in the embassy monitor about 100,000 Iranians living in Germany and also try to in-

trate Turkish organisations, Spiegel said in excerpts of an article appears in its Monday issue.

There are about 600 Iranian-controlled companies in German-speaking countries that are used for "sensitive activities," Spiegel said.

Iranian agents are also trying to obtain technology for the production of atomic, chemical and biological weapons, the magazine said.

The secret service headquarters are based on the third floor of Iran's embassy in Bonn, with six offices and a communications room reserved for Tehran's secret service agents, Spiegel said.

Twenty of the embassy's staff work for Iran's secret service, and some of the other 70 embassy employees also occasionally work for Tehran's intelligence, the magazine reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fireman injured in Lebanon forest fires

BEIRUT (AP) — Forest fires ignited by a heat wave swept through Lebanon's central mountains Saturday and police said at least one fireman was injured while battling a blaze. Flames destroyed large chunks of pine woods overlooking the capital, but the exact size of the affected area was still not known. Police said civil defence firefighters put down 38 blazes after a daylong struggle, but 17 others were raging out of control in the woods near the posh summer resort town of Brummana, 15 kilometres northeast of Beirut. A civil defence volunteer suffered severe burns when his car caught fire in one of the Brummana fires. Police said the fires were caused by the heat wave that has sent temperatures soaring to 36 Celsius.

Tonne of pure heroin seized in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran, which lies on a major trans-Asian smuggling route, said Saturday law enforcement officials have seized over one tonne of pure heroin in their biggest ever drug haul in the northwestern Gilan province. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted the commander of law enforcement forces in the northern Caspian Sea province, General Qasemi as saying the 1,060 kilograms of heroin were hidden in a truck. IRNA did not provide the exact market value of the haul. But such a large quantity is worth tens of millions of dollars. IRNA said a number of drug traffickers were arrested in connection with the haul. If convicted, they could be sentenced to death under Iran's draconian laws. In another drug incident, IRNA said an Iranian man, who had swallowed 125 bags containing a total of 1.5 kilograms of opium, was arrested at Zahedan airport in the Sistan-Baluchestan province, which borders Pakistan. It did not say when the incident occurred or give the detainee's name. Iran has reported that security forces seized some 74 tonnes of narcotics in a six-month sweep that began in March.

Iraqi envoy denies MK's assertion

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail Al Weiss has described as baseless a statement by Israeli Member of Knesset (MK) Talab Al Sanaa that he had made a request to the Iraqi embassy here to visit Iraq. In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Dustour, Mr. Weiss said Mr. Al Sanaa had neither called nor approached the embassy for a visa. "The embassy has no knowledge of the subject he is talking about; nor has it received any request from him nor from any party to which he belongs to visit Iraq," the ambassador said.

Government promise to help Kurds

TUNCELI (AP) — The government on Saturday promised to provide aid to Kurds who fled their villages in eastern Turkey, but declined to acknowledge that the villages were razed by Turkish troops. Deputy Premier Murat Karayalcin visited the eastern province of Tunceli to look into reports that several villages were burned down by troops for allegedly providing shelter to Kurdish rebels. "We will provide the necessary assistance for the accommodation of the villagers who had to leave their villages," Mr. Karayalcin said in a speech at the town of Ovacik in Tunceli. However, local people expressed disappointment for his refusal to acknowledge the army's role. "We explained to Karayalcin clearly that forced evacuations were the work of the army," Musa Yerlikaya, the mayor of Ovacik, told the Associated Press. "Karayalcin and other officials met our statements with silence," Mr. Yerlikaya said. Mr. Karayalcin did not visit the evacuated villages.

Afghan general killed in fighting

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan army general was killed fighting opponents of President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Friday, the official Kabul Radio said. General Amir Mohammad, an army commander in the northern province of Kunduz, was killed in a "face-to-face battle" with opposition militias, the broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said. The anti-Rabbani militias are controlled by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Uganda sends Sudanese observers home

NAIROBI (R) — Uganda ordered Sudanese military observers off its territory on Saturday, marking another increase of tension between states which each suspect the other of aiding its rebel enemies. A Foreign Ministry statement broadcast on Radio Uganda accused Khartoum of supporting the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel Christian sect trying to overthrow President Yoweri Museveni. The observers were stationed across the border in 1990 to allay Sudanese concern that southern rebels were getting aid through Uganda. "While Uganda is interested in maintaining cordial relations with all its neighbours, it will not sit back and allow anyone to take advantage of its peaceful gesture to destabilise it and endanger the lives and property of its people," said the ministry statement. Uganda made a formal protest to Sudan on Friday against what it said were hostile activities and a smear campaign by the government in Khartoum.

Rain destroys houses near Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Torrential rains have destroyed over 700 houses, four public schools, a health centre and some public buildings in Douroushab suburb, some 20 kilometres north-east of here, witnesses said Saturday. Eyewitnesses from the area say families who have been rendered homeless are also deprived of drinking water and electricity for the second day running since the flooding on Friday.

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Saudi councils set up to monitor Islamic affairs

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has set up two councils of government officials and theologians to curb the spread of Islamic fundamentalism at home and promote the Muslim faith abroad.

A royal decree on Saturday announced the creation of the Council of Daawa and Guidance, headed by Islamic Affairs Minister Abdullah Al Turki. Daawa means a global campaign to promote the faith.

The council will have eight other members including senior mosque preachers, deans of Islamic universities and officials from the justice and Islamic affairs ministries.

Mr. Turki also is a member of a more powerful council the king set up earlier this week under the leadership of his brother, Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz.

The councils were formed after a recent crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists campaigning for stricter adherence to the Islamic faith in the already puritanical kingdom.

The government said some 110 "agitators" with links to "suspect groups abroad" had been arrested in the unprecedented sweep in Buraydah, capital of the northwestern Al Qasim province.

Saturday's decree said the

Council of Daawa and Guidance will set plans for promoting Islam and deal with spiritual aspects linked to Daawa, including the choice of mosque preachers and elevating the standards of preaching.

The functions of Prince Sultan's council, however, have not been spelled out. But Mr. Turki, the Islamic affairs minister, said its creation reflected "the care that King Fahd accords to Islamic affairs and issues of Muslims, minority Islamic communities and Islamic centres" abroad.

Officials said Prince Sultan's team will report directly to the King. It will probe the spread of fundamentalism in the Kingdom, implement an educational reform programme to prevent the brainwashing of youths by extremists and work for reconciling the kingdom with governments critical of its adherence to Islamic law.

The council also will monitor missionary and donations sent abroad to set up Islamic centres, they said.

The two councils will operate separately from the existing Supreme Council of Islamic Ummah.

Saudi opposition groups have been campaigning against the Saudi ruling family, accusing it of despotism and human rights abuses.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Tel: 73111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 17:00 | Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles |
| 17:30 | Un Pour Tous |
| 18:00 | Les Six Compagnons |
| 18:30 | News in French |
| 18:45 | Magazine Sportif |
| 19:00 | New in Hebrew |
| 19:30 | The Emergency Room |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Couch |
| 21:10 | Columbus |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:30 | J.F.K. — Rockless Youth |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 04:14 | Fajr |
| 05:31 | (Sunrise) Dhuhr |
| 11:23 | Dhuhr |
| 14:42 | 'Asr |
| 17:16 | Maghreb |
| 18:33 | Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaffah, Tel. 810740 | |
| Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637185 | |
| St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 | |
| De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 | |
| Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366 | |
| WEATHER | |
| Bullshit supplied by the Department of Meteorology. | |
| Temperatures tend to drop gradually as a unstable weather conditions will continue. The skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of thunder showers and winds southeasterly moderate becoming south-westerly moderate in Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough. | |
| Min./Max. temp. | |
| Amman | 20 / 30 |
| Aqaba | 24 / 30 |

| Deserts | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Jordan Valley | 18 / 32 |
| Jordan Valley | 23 / 35 |
| Yesterday's high temperatures: | |
| Amman | 36 per cent. |
| Aqaba | 38 per cent. |
| USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS | |
| NIGHT DUTY | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Jamil Maraga | 776149 |
| Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub | 785525 |
| Dr. Jamal Juraifi | 847351 |
| Dr. Ghazi Abdallah | 864286 |
| Firas pharmacy | 661912 |
| Ferows pharmacy | 778356 |
| Al Asma pharmacy | 637055 |
| Nairokh pharmacy | 623672 |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 644945 |
| Shamsi pharmacy | 637640 |
| Nairokh pharmacy | 623672 |
| Najib pharmacy | 847632 |
| REID: | |
| Dr. Akram Momani | 248795 |
| Akud pharmacy | (-) |
| ZARQA: | |
| Dr. Rafiq Atallah | 984424 |
| Khalifeh pharmacy | 985417 |
| EMERGENCIES | |
| Control Centre | 637111 |
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 630241 |
| Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 | |
| Fire Brigade | 617101 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Highway Police | 843402 |
| Traffic Police | 896390 |
| Public Security Department | 63021 |
| Hotel Complaints | 605800 |
| Price Complaints | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage | 897467 |
| Complaints | 787111 |
| Telephone Information | 121 |
| Overseas Calls | 010230 |
| Central Amman Telephone | 623101 |
| Abdali Telephone Repairs | 623101 |
| Radio Jordan | 774111 |
| Water Authority | 680100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |
| HOSPITALS | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Hussein Medical Centre | 813813/32 |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn | 644281/6 |
| Aklich Maternity, J. Amn | 642441/2 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 642362 |
| Mulhas, J. Amman | 636140 |
| Palestine, Shmeicani | 664171/4 |
| Shmeicani Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 845845 |
| Al-Musharraf Hospital | 667227/9 |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 666127/7 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 664164/6 |
| Italian, Al-Mubajraa | 777101/3 |
| Al-Bashir, J. Adrafiah | 775111/25 |
| Army, Marka | 891611/15 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 602240/50 |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 |
| ZARQA: | |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | (09)983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital | (09)900360 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | (09)886732 |
| Al Hikma Modern Hospital | (09)900990 |
| FOR THE TRAVELLER | |
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified. | |
| ARRIVALS | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 07:15 | Sanas (RJ) |
| 08:00 | Damascus (RJ) |
| 08:30 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 09:00 | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 09:15 | Riyadh (RJ) |
| 10:00 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 10:30 | New Delhi (RJ) |
| 16:30 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 17:00 | New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| DEPARTURES | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 05:45 | Beirut (RJ) |
| 11:20 | Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) |
| 12:15 | London (RJ) |
| 12:25 | Frankfurt (RJ) |
| 12:45 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 13:45 | Bahrain, Doha (RJ) |
| 20:00 | Dubai (RJ) |
| 20:45 | Damascus (RJ) |
| 21:30 | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 21:30 | Dubai, Muscat (RJ) |
| Other Flights (Terminal 2) | |
| 06:00 | Istanbul (TK) |
| 06:15 | Beirut (ME) |
| 11:00 | Khartoum (SD) |
| 13:30 | Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) |
| 15:00 | Sanaa (Y) |
| 19:15 | Dubai (EY) |
| 20:15 | Dubai (MS) |
| 02:30 | Amsterdam (KL) |
| HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN | |
| Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday | |
| Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday | |
| Dep. Damascus 7:50 a.m. every Sunday | |
| Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday | |
| MARKET PRICES | |
| Upper/lower price in fils per kg. | |
| Apple | 700 / 500 |
| Banana | 600 / 400 |
| Banana (Mukannas) | 600 |
| Cabbage | 110 / 60 |
| Carrot | 260 / 180 |
| Cailliflower | 250 / 150 |
| Cucumber | 300 / 200 |
| Cucumbers (large) | 180 / 100 |
| Cucumbers (small) | 340 / 240 |
| Eggplant | 300 / 200 |
| Garlic | 1200 / 900 |
| Grapes | 650 / 450 |
| Grapes (Hilwan) | 1000 / 700 |
| Guava | 500 / 350 |
| Lemon | 270 / 170 |
| Marrow (large) | 200 / 160 |
| Marrow (small) | 300 / 200 |
| Mutkhalib | 180 / 100 |
| Onion (green) | 320 / 180 |
| Onion (dry) | 370 / 270 |
| Pepper (hot) | 280 / 160 |
| Pepper (sweet) | 280 / 160 |
| Potato | 320 / 220 |
| Spinach | 280 / 200 |
| Tomato | 270 / 170 |
| String beans | 800 / 600 |

Police arrest suspect in murder of Irbid businessman



DISCUSSING TRANSPORT ISSUES: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday discusses with Transport Minister Samir Kassar and senior ministry officials the issue of reactivating the Hijaz Railway and opening the door for the private sector to operate the railway. Discussion also covered modernisation of Aqaba Port and the Kingdom's airports (Petra photo)

Princess Basma urges more awareness of Arab women's roles in workforce

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Creating awareness about the significance of women's roles, and creating awareness amongst women themselves to encourage them to ascertain their roles and participate in supporting the development process are necessary elements of enforcing the existing framework of cooperation among Arab countries, said Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday.

Presiding over the tripartite symposium on the problems of women workers in Arab countries, Princess Basma said women in Arab countries constitute half the number of the total population, which means that women share the same responsibilities and rights domain as Arab men, and the same responsibilities in the domain of care and services. The Princess cited the weak participation of women in the labour force, stressing that this regional problem

should be eliminated. "Although Arab women have enjoyed full educational opportunities, still, their contribution in the labour market remains minimal," she said addressing a packed room at the Philadelphia Hotel.

"This indicates that large percentages of the women's force in Arab countries is idle and not utilised," she added.

Moreover, Princess Basma said she considers this symposium as the first stage for governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to follow. "To keep pace with the new international development concepts, and to ascertain our individual and collective efforts which fall into the development of our countries and people."

Minister of Labour, Khalid Ghazawi who also addressed the attendees, said this conference will help discuss the labour problems women face in this region and contribute to what women can do to improve their status in the



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, flanked by Minister of Labour Khalid Ghazawi and International Labour Organisation Deputy Director General Mary Chinery-Hesse, chairs a symposium on problems of Arab women workers (Petra photo)

society. One of the problems, according to the minister, is that women occupy one-third of the work force in the world. Still, he added, women own only one-tenth of the societies' income in the world, "but here in Jordan, we have formed a national plan of action to improve women's conditions and protect their rights."

"The most important thing we need to look at is modernising the legislation and developing our traditions and

habits to contribute in forming our social conduct and changing its direction to cope with our goals and objectives," he added.

Mary Chinery-Hesse, deputy director-general of the International Labour Office (ILO), said that the meeting is an important event for the ILO because "it forms an integral part of our organisation's contributions to the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing in September 1995."

She noted that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the ILO, and said "it is an excellent opportunity to assess what the ILO must do for women in the world of work in different regions of the world."

The symposium, organised by the ILO and the Jordanian National Committee for Women, is attended by eight Arab countries including Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Palestine, Yemen and Jordan.

Police arrest suspect in murder of Irbid businessman

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Sunday announced the arrest of one of two suspects in connection with the murder of a 50-year-old man five days ago, according to Colonel Mihjem Faouri, director of the Irbid police.

During a press conference in Irbid, Col. Faouri told reporters that the other suspect, identified only as M.M., 23, had fled to another country, "and we have contacted the concerned authorities to recover the suspect," he added. "He did not say to which country." "The victim's family informed police that one of the deceased's nephews failed to attend the funeral or the wake," the police official said. "The relatives also informed us that they had seen the suspect who they said had wounds to several parts of his body," he added.

Col. Faouri said that police investigations showed that the suspect was in debt, and at the same time, the victim always kept money in his office.

The murder victim, Rushdi T.H., who owned an import/export office in the Shamali suburb of Irbid, was found stabbed to death. The victim also received one bullet to the jaw.

According to Col. Faouri, preliminary investigations indicated that more than one person had committed the crime. "We questioned relatives of the first suspect's close friends and they led us to the second suspect," the colonel said.

According to the official, the arrested man identified only as M.A.A., 19, confessed to committing the crime with the victim's nephew.

In his testimony to police, M.A.A. said that they both planned the murder because they knew that Mr. Rushdi always kept money in the office.

He said that on the morning of Oct. 4, he and the nephew waited until the victim had entered his office, then they entered behind him and the nephew pointed the gun at Mr. Rushdi demanding money, the official said.

The police official added that the victim, who was described as a strong man, struggled with his nephew, but was tackled to the ground by the other perpetrator while his nephew struck him with the butt of the gun and then shot him. He said the nephew stabbed Mr. Rushdi several times and the two suspects fled with JD 6,000 they had taken from the office drawer.

A police official Sunday evening told the Jordan Times that police had recovered the gun used in the crime and some of the stolen money.

UNRWA teachers, labourers plan sit-in, demand better pay, working conditions

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Committees representing teachers and labourers employed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) plan a several-hour sit-in at UNRWA headquarters Wednesday to press demands for better pay and working conditions, according to Hussein Hreithan, head of the 11-member teachers committee. Mr. Hreithan told the Jordan Times Sunday that the two committees have already sent a petition to the agency's commissioner general, Ilter Turkmen, in Vienna through UNRWA Affairs Director in Jordan Ele Saaf, and submitted a copy of their demands contained in the letter addressed to Mr. Turkmen to Asem Ghosheh, head of the Palestinian Affairs Department in Jordan.

He said if the sit-in fails

to achieve positive results, the two committees are planning further such demonstrations, possibly teacher's strikes.

The two committees rejected a JD 10 cost of living allowance promised to agency staff last month, saying the amount was insufficient and covered only grades 1-11. They demand that a UNRWA freeze on labour staff appointments be repealed and more teachers be appointed to agency schools where the committees maintain, classrooms are congested with up to 60 students.

The committees demand that social workers be appointed to each of the 201 agency schools in Jordan and that UNRWA clinics retain more doctors and nurses to cope with the increasing number of patients.

According to the petition sent to Mr. Turkmen, the agency can meet these de-

mands by paying from the difference in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar against the Jordanian dinar.

To explain, Mr. Hreithan said that in 1987 UNRWA paid a total of \$47,877,063 to cover the salaries of all agency staff in Jordan, but in 1991 it paid only \$35,877,000 because of the devaluation of the dinar and so it has been saving more than \$12.5 million annually.

Asked to comment on the demands, Mr. Saaf admitted that some of the classrooms were congested and that there was a freeze on the appointment of labourers, but he told the Jordan Times that a committee is studying the situation while the agency is employing temporary workers to carry out services.

After completion of the study and a decision has

been taken on the employment of permanent staff, the agency would readily comply with the committee's decision, said Mr. Saaf.

Noting that the agency currently suffers from a \$43 million deficit in its 1994 budget, Mr. Saaf said that the agency can neither hire more teachers nor offer the staff additional salary increases in view of the financial constraints, which, he said, are beyond his administration's control.

For his part, Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Asem Ghosheh said that this matter concerns the agency and its staff.

But, he said, his department would be willing to try to bridge the gap between the two sides and convene meetings if that would help to end differences and avert sit-ins or strikes.

Jordanian and Pakistani businessmen plan projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Pakistani businessmen Sunday discussed establishing a sugar factory and animal feed processing plant in Jordan as joint ventures for which primary materials would be imported from other countries.

The two sides also discussed prospects of exporting Jordanian-made drip irrigation equipment and pesticides to Pakistan.

The businessmen, who met at the Amman Chamber of Industry, said in a statement afterwards that they discussed joint ventures in general with particular attention to food and textile industries.

The said they agreed on following up on the implementation of these schemes through the chamber in cooperation with the commercial attaché at the Pakistani embassy in Amman.

The Pakistani trade team led by Mohammad Siddik Alfi, was accompanied on a tour of the chamber's permanent exhibition of Jordanian industrial products and later on visits to several factories at the Sahab Industrial City near Amman.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoting chamber sources, Pakistan's exports to Jordan in the first

half of 1994 were worth JD 14 million against JD 1.5 million worth of Jordanian exports to Pakistan.

Pakistan's main exports to the Kingdom consisted mainly of rice, textiles, industrial oils, sugar and sugar by-products as well as leather goods.

The Pakistani team, which is on a five-day visit to Jordan, is expected to hold talks at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Meanwhile the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce announced Sunday that a U.S. trade delegation is due in Amman on Oct. 17 for meetings with Jordanian economic and business sectors to discuss trade.

Federation Chairman Haidar Murad said that discussion will cover investments in Jordan since numerous American companies lately expressed interest in investing in tourism, services and production fields.

Noting that Arab and foreign trade teams have been coming to Jordan in the wake of the Kingdom's signing of the Washington Declaration with Israel, Mr. Murad said that prospects of peace and increased trade activities with countries of this region have been encouraging such visits.

Seminar to review means to help disabled women

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an effort to address the issues of integrating disabled Arab women into society, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organising a three-day regional seminar on "The Role of the Family in Integrating Disabled Women into Society," an ESCWA statement said Sunday.

Sponsors of the seminar are the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Ministry of Social Development, the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan, the Regional Centre for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls, and the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, said the statement.

Held under the patronage of Prince Raad Ben Zeid and Princess Majida Raad Ben Zeid, the seminar will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre from Oct. 16 to 18. According to an ESCWA spokesperson, the seminar aims at providing a forum for disabled women and experts to assess the nature and extent of social integration of Arab disabled women and to draw up action-oriented guidelines for promoting their integration into society. Included in the seminar will

be substantive presentations, discussions and demonstrations in the form of plenary and working group sessions covering the following topics:

— The extent and nature of the problem of disabled women and children in the ESCWA region, with particular emphasis on their socio-economic characteristics and the level of their social integration.

— Childhood disability and the role of the family in terms of prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

— The role of grass-roots NGOs.

Seminar participants include disabled women and men, families of disabled women, regional and international experts on the issues, representatives of major non-governmental organisations.

The seminar is being held in fulfillment of Economic and Social Council Resolution 1991/21 on disabled women, which recommended that focal points in the United Nations system for the advancement of women and disability issues (including ESCWA and UNICEF) cooperate more closely in their efforts to give continuing attention to issues involving women with disabilities.

Potash company raises foreign capital

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) announced it has sold at least 7.5 million shares of 10.9 million shares placed on international bourses in July.

This is the first time that the Kingdom's second largest mining company sought foreign capital.

Although APC is still waiting for figures from the sale, APC is optimistic that all shares will be sold, said Sahair Gammoh, an APC spokesperson.

The stock issue, which closed Saturday, offered the shares at par value of JD 1 and a premium of JD 5 as

approved by the government, which also authorised the company to invite foreign investors.

The par value proceeds of the new issue were absorbed into the APC capital, raising it to JD 83.31 million from JD 72.45 million.

The rest of the proceeds would be used to finance several expansion projects planned by the APC, whose main production is potash, extracted from the Dead Sea waters.

Proceeds from the sale will be channelled into two major APC projects.

The APC plans to reinvest in the Jordan Industrial Dead Sea Company — a holding

company in which APC holds 51 per cent of JD 60 million capital — to implement the exploitation of Dead Sea minerals along with the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the Social Security Corporation (SSC), Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the private sector.

The holding company is entrusted with implementing several mining projects including bromine and bromine derivatives, magnesium oxide, potassium sulphate and calcium phosphate, and industrial salts.

The remainder of the proceeds will be channelled into an expansion project begun in the beginning of the year aimed at increasing productivity.

According to Ms. Gammoh, the APC expects to increase productivity from 1.8 million tonnes to 2.2 million tonnes by 1998.

Ms. Gammoh said the bulk of foreign investment comes from British and European companies via Baring Securities, a British holding company.

"I think that Jordanian Social Security Corporation (SSC) is considering buying shares," she added, "and we expect the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar will also be buying."

The Islamic Development Bank of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Mines Company and the governments of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait constitute 90 per cent of all APC shareholders. The remaining shareholders are Arab nationals.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ French film entitled "La Bête Humaine" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Ceramics exhibition by Khaled Abdul Sattar at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Fatahi at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 610858).

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mimar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funnun, Jabal Lawitah (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Marham (Tel. 824425).

★ Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boulata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funnun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawitah. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

Spanish Cultural Week

الاسبوع الثقافي الاسباني
Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor

Spain comes to you in the language of culture, art and gastronomy.

A week bursting with the greatest array of unsurpassed performances.

Three of Spain's top chefs will prepare seven spectacular dinners throughout the week.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Oct 17 5:00 pm | Inauguration of The Spanish Contemporary Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture Exhibition of the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Al Weibdeh (will remain open till Oct 30th) |
| 8:30 pm | "Vicente Amigo" Modern Flamenco Jazz Concert with a wonderful dinner preceding the show Jordan Ballroom/Grand Ballroom, Forte Grand Amman JD30 inclusive of tax and service |
| Oct 18 7:30 pm | "Vicente Amigo" Modern Flamenco Jazz Concert Royal Cultural Centre, Amman |
| 9:30 pm | A superb gourmet dinner Andalusia Restaurant, Forte Grand Amman Dinner & show JD30, show only JD7 inclusive of tax and service |
| Oct 19 & 21 8:30 pm | "Jos Mari a Gallardo" Classical Guitar Recital following an exquisite dinner Jordan Ballroom/Grand Ballroom, Forte Grand Amman JD30 inclusive of tax and service |
| Oct 20 8:30 pm | "Ciudad de Sevilla" Flamenco Show and "Ylana" Comical Mime Group Show following an exquisite dinner Grand Ballroom, Forte Grand Amman JD40 inclusive of tax and service |
| Oct 22 & 23 7:30 pm | "Ciudad de Sevilla" Flamenco Show Palace of Culture, King Hussein Sports City JD7 |
| 9:30 pm | A spectacular gourmet dinner with "Ylana" Comical Mime Group Show Grand Ballroom, Forte Grand Amman JD 30 inclusive of tax and service |
| Oct 24 5:00 pm | "Danza Invisible" Rock Concert Palace of Culture, King Hussein Sports City JD6 |

Tickets sold at Forte Grand
For further details and reservations, please call 696511



Proceeds to the benefit of Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Cult leader Di Mambro identified among dead

GENEVA (Agencies) — Joseph Di Mambro, the leader of the Order of the Solar Temple doomsday sect, has been identified by family members as being among 48 dead found in two Swiss villages last week, Swiss Television reported Sunday.

The television station, which quoted several sources who had seen the corpse, said Mr. Di Mambro's death would soon be confirmed officially by pathologists.

"Joseph Di Mambro is dead," Television Suisse Romande (TSR) reported. "A member of his family who arrived from France has clearly identified the body of the man considered to be the number one in the Order of the Solar Temple."

Mr. Di Mambro, a French Canadian of around 70 years of age, is said to have been the plottest of the sect. Swiss police have issued an international arrest warrant in his name on charges of murder and arson.

The television station said it had been told by another member of his family that Mr. Di Mambro's body was "easily identifiable."

The body of Luc Joutet, Mr. Di Mambro's charismatic sidekick who wooed new members into the sect, has not yet been identified, but TSR said police now had Mr. Joutet's dental records and would be able to check whether he was among 25 who died in the village of Granges Sur Salvan or 23 who died in a farmhouse near

Fribourg. Autopsies on 48 cult members suggest that at least some did not commit ritual suicide but were murdered, a lead investigator says.

Among 23 victims found at the farm in the western Swiss village of Chetiv, some were shot repeatedly in the head, then hooded with plastic bags while another was pumped full of bullets, investigative Judge Andre Piller said Saturday.

Those bodies were found Wednesday along with 25 others found inside three chalets in another village.

All the deaths and five more in Canada are believed to be linked to the cult.

"There's a real disarray. We don't understand any more just how the drama took place," Judge Piller said. "We have a lot of work to do."

"Someone or a group of people went completely berserk" at the farm, he said. "One person had two bullet holes in the head but no holes in the plastic bag on the head. Another had three bullet holes in the head and one bullet hole in the plastic bag," he said.

One body had eight bullet wounds to the head. "That was certainly homicide," he said.

Asked if all those found at the farm were murdered, he said: "We can't exclude that."

Some of the bodies at the farm were found lying in a circle and some victims were dressed in robes, leading in-

vestigators to speculate that the group committed ritual suicide.

The investigation's scope widened Saturday with the discovery of an elaborate incendiary bomb at a villa used by the cult in southern France. The bomb was similar to the ones used to set fires at cult houses in Switzerland and Canada, Judge Piller said. No one was at the villa near Toulon, and French authorities defused the bomb.

The bomb consisted of bottled gas fuel containers connected to electrical wiring that could have been detonated by a telephone signal, sources close to the French investigation said.

In Morin Heights, Quebec, Canadian police said Saturday that three family members whose bodies were found Thursday in a house co-owned by Mr. Di Mambro and Mr. Joutet were killed several days before fire destroyed it.

Police think two other charred bodies found in the house Tuesday and believed to be linked to the cult were those of adults who committed suicide.

Identification of the most severely burned could take weeks. Of the 23 bodies found at the Swiss farm, only 13 had been identified, Judge Piller said. Medical identification of the 25 bodies found in three burned chalets used by the cult in Granges-Sur-Salvan was to begin this week.



Police investigators sift through debris at the scene of a fire in a house belonging to Joseph Di Mambro, linked with the Order of the Solar Temple, in Morin Heights, Canada. Two adults and an infant were found in the charred remains of the house bringing the total number of bodies found to five (AFP photo)

Amnesty: Australia's reputation is at risk

SYDNEY (R) — The human rights group Amnesty International Sunday said Australia's credibility as a champion of human rights was at risk because of its foreign policy of "quiet diplomacy" in Asia and continuing domestic human rights abuses.

Amnesty International Secretary General Pierre Sane, specifically questioned Australia's commitment to human rights in Indonesia, currently a major economic target by the Australian government.

He also said Australia's belief that economic prosperity would inevitably lead to improvements in human rights was flawed, citing Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea as prosperous economies where "authoritarianism precludes the full enjoyment of basic civil and political rights."

"Australia speaks confidently of the success of its quiet diplomacy approach to human rights," Mr. Sane said at a news conference at the beginning of a five-day visit.

"But where is the evidence. The facts just do not support the assertion. And if that is the case then you must surely ask whether your current human rights policy, on

Indonesia at least, may not be built on sand," he said.

Mr. Sane rejected the claim by Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray during a visit to Indonesia in July that there had been immense improvements in human rights in Indonesia in the past few years.

"We recognise Australia's commitment and the active diplomatic efforts this government pursues," Mr. Sane said.

"However, we do have some concerns as to how that commitment is being translated into effective foreign policy on human rights. This is particularly true in the case of Indonesia and East Timor," he said.

"Certainly there have been some institutional changes, some positive signs. But Amnesty's research leaves not a shred of doubt that the real task of human rights reform simply hasn't happened."

Indonesia annexed East Timor following a bloody invasion in 1975 and continues to fight a few hundred guerrillas who demand independence for the former Portuguese province. In 1991 Indonesian troops opened fire

on protesters in a cemetery in the East Timor capital Dili, killing up to 200 people.

Mr. Sane said the "patience" at the heart of Australia's policy on human rights in Asia is based on the dangerous assumption that economic development leads to better human rights.

"I think this argument is dangerous," Mr. Sane said. "It is a one-sided reading of history. It is saying that similar political liberties were granted to people in the developed world, in countries like Australia, automatically. We know that those liberties were the result of struggles."

Mr. Sane also said that such a policy may give the wrong message to regimes under pressure to improve their human rights record.

Mr. Sane said there was no evidence that human rights concerns were central to Australia's policy of integration into Asia.

Mr. Sane also said that Australia's human rights reputation was at risk at home, citing the treatment of aborigines, the prolonged detention of asylum seeking Asian boatpeople and anti-homosexual laws in the island state of Tasmania.



Singer Michael Jackson (center) and his wife Lisa Presley are escorted by security guards past screaming fans during a tribute concert honouring the late Elvis Presley. Jackson and Presley reportedly plan to exchange marriage vows at the Memphis Graceland mansion of the late Elvis Presley (AFP photo)

Entertainers pay tribute to Elvis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (R) — Michael Bolton, Cher and dozens of other entertainers paid musical tribute to Elvis Presley as the king of rock 'n' roll's only child, Lisa Marie Presley, and new husband Michael Jackson watched.

Elvis's ex-wife, Priscilla, was also among nearly 20,000 people watching performances on four stages during the scheduled seven-hour multimedia celebration of the king's fabled career.

Bolton sang Elvis's hit Jailhouse Rock and Bryan Adams did his rendition of Hound Dog for the crowd, which paid up to \$375 apiece.

The concert, entitled Elvis Aaron Presley: The Tribute, was held to benefit St. Jude's

Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

The star-studded event inside a complex known as the Pyramid began at 8 p.m. (9 p.m. EDT) (0100 GMT Sunday) and lasted until 3 a.m. (4 a.m. EDT) (0800 GMT Sunday).

Other headliners included Melissa Etheridge, and Carl Perkins. The event also featured footage of Elvis.

"If Elvis is going to come back, this would be a good time for him to do it," said Joan Clark of Mobile, Alabama, president of the Looking for Elvis Fan Club.

Presley died in August 1977 at his Graceland mansion in Memphis, where the Mississippi-bred performer

launched his recording career at the Sun Recording Co. in the 1950s.

Lisa Marie Presley and Jackson watched the show from a private box at the Sun stage, where some of Presley's original musicians from Sun Recording Co. performed.

In all, approximately 40 entertainers appeared at the concert sponsored by Harrah's Casinos, organisers said.

Among those making introductions at the show were Priscilla Presley, actress Marlo Thomas, daughter of Danny Thomas, founder of St. Jude's Hospital for Children.

Thomas' husband, talk show host Phil Donahue and country music star Naomi Judd,

Angolan peace talks remain on hold

LUSAKA (R) — UNITA rebels said Sunday talks to end Angola's 20-year civil war were far from concluded and negotiations were suspended until the middle of the week while the government delegation consulted leaders in Luanda.

UNITA spokesman Jorge Valentim said the rebels' negotiating team had postponed travelling to its own headquarters in Huambo, central Angola, for a meeting that was originally scheduled for Oct. 10-13 to ratify peace proposals.

"We cannot go to Huambo because we have to wait for the government to come back from consultations in Luanda," he told Reuters.

"We can only resume the negotiations next Wednesday."

Sources close to the U.N.-mediated talks say the two sides, which have been meeting in the Zambian capital of Lusaka since November, were close to completing a protocol for a peace accord and an agreement could be signed before the end of October.

November to vote on the world trade treaty reached by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and approval is expected.

The House adjourned early Saturday morning and the Senate adjourned Saturday afternoon after giving final approval to a bill turning much of California's desert into a national wilderness

park. But other unfinished bills are dead until the next session of Congress begins in January.

The final days of the 103rd Congress were rent by increasing partisan rancour as Senate Republicans repeatedly stalled action on measures supported by President Bill Clinton.

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives will return at the end of

Washington (R) — Congress adjourned Saturday night after the November elections after abandoning attempts to overcome Republican efforts to stall major bills designed to clean up the legislature's image among voters.

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives will return at the end of

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Paper: Army filmed Diana's adultery

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family suffered fresh humiliation when a Sunday newspaper alleged intelligence services filmed Princess Diana having sex with a cavalry officer and Prince Charles blamed his father for childhood hell.

The News Of The World said army surveillance expert Glyn Jones claimed he filmed Princess Diana and kiss-and-tell Major James Hewitt making love in the garden of Maj. Hewitt's home in western England.

"Hewitt and Diana weren't wearing very much," he said. "First they were kissing and cuddling. Then things got really steamy."

A book about the couple's alleged five-year affair was published last Monday, sending out shockwaves which increased demands for Prince Charles to divorce Princess Diana and even renounce his claim to the throne in favour of their son William, 12.

The News Of The World also said that in a book out next month Prince Charles, who confessed in June to adultery, would portray his father Prince Philip as a cold, dominating man who made his childhood a misery.

Prince Charles, 45, split up almost two years ago from Princess Diana, the glamorous woman he married in a fairy tale ceremony in 1981. The couple can get a no-nonsense divorce from December but have given no indication yet that they will do so.

Mr. Jones, a colour sergeant who left the army last year, said a Royal Marines major ordered him to stake out Maj. Hewitt's home in Ebbford, Devon, in 1988 on what he thought was an anti-terrorist operation.

Marines in his team hid in a hedge and ditch after setting up video cameras and planting a microphone in the garden, he said.

Mr. Jones, coordinating the mission from a nearby van, told the paper he sat stunned as his men reported that Princess Diana and Maj. Hewitt had come out into the garden and were making love half-naked in the autumn evening air.

He said the Royal Marines major pulled the team out, took away all the video and audio tapes of the encounter and warned the men to say nothing about what had happened.

But three years later a major, whom Mr. Jones believed was from the security services, asked him to help another surveillance unit monitor the house again, the News Of The World said.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the News Of The World story. But Sir Nicholas Bonsor, chairman of a Parliamentary Defence Committee, said he was worried by its implications.

Russia to launch diplomatic offensive at CSCE

BUDAPEST (R) — Russia launches a diplomatic offensive at a pan-European conference starting Monday, with Moscow hoping to avoid isolation and maintain a key role in security issues on the continent.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which groups the United States and Canada with all European states, opens a review conference in Budapest that will lead to a summit of leaders from the 35 member nations in December.

At issue is whether the CSCE, touted as the leading forum for bringing a new age of cooperation and peace after the Berlin Wall fell almost five years ago, can deliver on its promise.

Like other institutions including NATO and the European Union, the CSCE has failed to prevent or end new conflicts like the war in Bosnia. Critics regard it as little more than an ineffectual talking shop on human rights issues.

Hungary, hosting the meeting, says the organisation is still needed because it includes all European states and that it now has a more realistic view of its own future.

"By now we probably reached the level that we can assess... our possibilities without illusions and we'll be able to get rid of the traumatic caused by the Yugoslav crisis," the head of Hungary's CSCE delegation, Istvan Gyarmati, said Friday.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, however, has put forward proposals for the Budapest meeting that would — if accepted by other members — transform the institution into Europe's dominant security organisation.

Moscow has proposed establishing a U.N.-style Security Council within the CSCE that would have the power of veto over actions by other European bodies such as NATO.

By establishing a hierarchy with the CSCE at the top, Russia would therefore retain a powerful voice in European security.

Diplomats say Russia is worried that it could otherwise be left out of key decisions since it has little chance of joining NATO or the 12-nation European Union.

Russia's fears of isolation were reinforced last week when an international panel of experts delivered a damning indictment of its legal system and protection of human and minority rights.

The panel concluded that Moscow was unfit to join the 32-nation Council of Europe,

Bridegroom gets to church despite smashed arm, leg

LONDON (R) — A British bridegroom made it to his wedding despite a road crash in which he broke his arm and leg, newspapers reported. Tim Williams, 31, taken to hospital after the accident, but he refused to stay and doctors gave him painkilling injections to help him get through the wedding ceremony.

Mr. Williams arrived at the registry office in Sunderland, northern England, in a wheelchair, covered in blood and without his trousers, which had been cut off by nurses. After being cleaned up and married, Karen Exchells, also 31, was taken to the reception where the pain-killing drugs wore off and Mr. Williams passed out. He was rushed back to hospital. "He was very brave. It proves he really loves me," bride Karen told the newspapers.

Passenger sues Cunard over QE II food

LONDON (R) — A British passenger who says he fell ill after eating contaminated food on the QE II luxury liner launched a damages claim for more than £50,000 (\$79,330) against the Cunard company. Alan Evans was taken ill on a voyage between New York and the southern British port of Southampton in October 1991, according to a writ issued in London's High Court. He is suing the company alleging that the food he ate on the liner was negligently or recklessly prepared. No date has been fixed yet for hearing of the action.

Caffeine can be addictive — study

CHICAGO (AFP) — Coffee drinkers can become addicted to caffeine and suffer withdrawal symptoms when they stop, though the health risks are not serious, researchers said Tuesday. The Johns Hopkins University study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, said caffeine addiction should be regarded as "a clinical syndrome." Nine of the 11 adults in the study (82 per cent), who consumed either coffee or soft drinks with caffeine, showed withdrawal symptoms when given a placebo instead of caffeine. Others reported headaches, fatigue or "functional impairment in normal daily activities," the report said. "Physicians should advise patients who experience adverse effects from caffeine (such as anxiety, palpitations, sleep disturbance, gastrointestinal symptoms or compulsive use) to taper off consumption," the journal said in an editorial accompanying the study. "If such patients are unable to reduce their caffeine intake, the possibility of caffeine dependence should be considered and support to abstain from caffeine should be provided." The report said an estimated 80 per cent of U.S. adults regularly consume significant amounts of caffeine, but did not attempt to determine how many might be addicted.

Disney to bring French films to U.S.

PARIS (R) — The Walt Disney Company, often attacked in France as an exporter of American cultural imperialism, announced plans Friday to reverse some of the trade by promoting French films in the United States. Euro Disney, which runs the Disneyland theme park outside Paris, said its parent was setting up a new subsidiary which would finance co-productions as well as promote classic French films in the United States and dub others into English. Euro Disney Chairman Philippe Bourgoignie said there was no link between Disney plans to promote French films in the United States and potential French government support for the loss-making Disneyland theme park. Nor was it designed to dispel lingering bad feeling over French attempts to exclude films from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) free trade accord as part of Paris's ongoing battle against encroaching American culture. French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon, who has fought to keep English words from creeping into the French language, met Disney officials Friday and showed "a keen interest in the creation of the new company," a Culture Ministry statement said.

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Some 150,000 people flock in St. Peter's Square taking part in an unprecedented festival of the family televised in Europe, Africa and the Americas. The Pontiff said he will publish an encyclical on life at the end of 1994 (AFP photo)

Pope launches appeal to shun divorce

VATICAN CITY (AP) — About 150,000 people filled St. Peter's square Sunday for the closing of family celebrations led by Pope John Paul II, who insisted that marriage vows must be "indissoluble."

The outdoor mass held in the sun-bathed square ended the church's Year of the Family. The 74-year-old Pontiff appeared rested and in good health, but walked gingerly around the altar and sometimes leaned on his

crucifix-topped staff. The Pope had cancelled a trip to the United States planned for this month. Vatican officials said he needed to fully recover from hip surgery after a fall in April. Church leaders have denied the Pope is ill.

The crowds Sunday waved banners and flags from dozens of nations and cheered as the Pope read greetings in 31 languages. The Pontiff attacked the rise in divorce by urging followers to "confirm and renew the fundamental sacrament of matrimony and the family."

Berlusconi conflict of

ROME (R) — Italian politicians and commentators Sunday greeted with scepticism a proposal to distance Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi from his immense business empire and end a row that has damaged the image of his shaky government.

Several editorialists and legal experts said the plan would not prevent government policy from being unwittingly influenced by Mr. Berlusconi's \$7 billion a year business empire. One leading opposition member branded it a joke.

Corriere argued that the proposal was leaky since members of the regulators were named by the speakers of the two houses of parliament who in turn belong to the parliamentary majority. The conflict of interest row has arisen time and again, casting a shadow over major decisions taken by his government.

In July, Mr. Berlusconi sparked a furore by hosting a meeting of Fininvest executives and cabinet ministers two days before graft-busters arrested his younger brother and business associate Paolo. Continued rows with anti-corruption investigators have led to opposition charges Mr. Berlusconi is doing everything possible to protect his business interests.

Kohl heads for reelection but allies not so sure

BONN (R) — One week away from Germany's general election, Chancellor Helmut Kohl is heading for a return to power but his government cannot be so sure. Mr. Kohl looks set to lead the largest parliamentary party, the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU), for another four years and head whatever coalition emerges from the Oct. 16 vote.

The question now is whether that coalition will be with the Free Democrats (FDP), his partners for the last 12 years, or an unwanted alliance with the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). It all depends on how much small parties like the liberal FDP, the reform communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) or the ecologist Greens can tip the political scales.

According to an Emnid poll Sunday, the race is a dead heat between two blocs of 48 per cent each — the CDU/CSU (42) and FDP (six) on the one side and the SPD (37), Greens (seven) and PDS (four) on the other. "The polls produce lots of excitement but no insight," the weekly Die Zeit lamented.

A shift to the right of just a point or two, which is well within the opinion polls' margin of error, could bring Mr. Kohl's centre-right government back in with him. One or two points more to the left could force him into a grand coalition with the SPD, which says it would not rule with the PDS, successors to East Germany's hardline ruling party.

Scandal throws Mahathir's party in disarray

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The youth wing of Malaysia's ruling party appears to be on a collision course with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad over the position of its leader, who allegedly had an affair with a 15-year-old girl, local newspapers reported Sunday.

Mr. Mahathir defended United National Malays Organisation (UMNO) youth leader Rahim Tamby Chik Friday, shortly after the youth wing asked for Mr. Rahim's removal to ensure party success in Malaysia's next general elections.

The New Sunday Times newspaper quoted acting UMNO youth leader Nazri Abdul Aziz as expressing disappointment over Mr. Mahathir's defence of Mr. Rahim. "We are responsible people doing this for UMNO. Why see us as trouble makers when the person at fault is being defended. Do we want to defend one person or 500,000 youth members," Mr. Nazri said in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Mahathir had said there is a plot within UMNO using Mr. Rahim's alleged involvement with the girl to oust the youth leader from his party posts. Mr. Rahim will face rape charges under Malaysian law if the case is brought to court. Sex with a woman under 16 years in age is considered as statutory rape regardless of consent.

U.N. resumes Sarajevo airlift

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations resumed its airlift into Sarajevo Sunday as aid officials scrambled to replenish depleted food stocks in the Bosnian capital before the harsh Balkan winter sets in.

Stocks had dropped perilously low after Bosnian Serbs effectively closed the airport on Sept. 22 by threatening to shoot down any planes trying to land. The first plane in, an American C-130 from Ancona, Italy, landed at 8 a.m. (0700 GMT), a U.N. official said.

"We have a full schedule today with 20 UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) flights and two UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) flights expected," the official added. The Serb blockade crippled U.N. efforts to supply Sarajevo's 380,000 people with food. Bakeries and warehouses said their stocks would last only a few days.

The UNHCR halted aid flights to Sarajevo Saturday after two U.N. military planes were hit on the runway Friday. The resumption of the airlift comes at a time of soured relations between the UNPROFOR and the Bosnian government and of increased bloodshed in and around the capital.

Bosnian Serb forces Saturday cut down civilians in Sarajevo with machinegun fire, killing one and wounding 11. Witnesses saw some victims hit several times in the barrage from Serb hillside positions on an exposed Sarajevo boulevard known as "sniper alley."

Doctors said six of the wounded, including boys aged 14 and 16, were badly injured. Five other children were less seriously wounded. In a mountain meadow south of Sarajevo, Serb Orthodox priests intoned dirges as two brothers killed in the Muslim ambush were buried, watched by over 100 Serbs, mostly soldiers fresh from the front and still in mud-spattered fatigues.

Bosnian Serb authorities said the attack was a massacre and a war crime. But U.N. officials have retracted their original allegation that the Serb bodies bore signs of mutilation. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic demanded an apology from U.N. envoy Akashi saying he slandered government forces. Mr. Akashi declined.

Aiming to salvage relations with the Bosnian government, UNPROFOR Bosnia commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose denied Sunday he had threatened its Muslim-led forces with NATO air strikes unless they left the Sarajevo DMZ. But U.N. soldiers, backed by NATO planes, continued to scour the snow-covered DMZ on Igman and Bjelasnica mountains, ejecting Bosnian government troops and blowing up their bunkers.

Strong aftershock causes brief panic in Japan

TOKYO (R) — A powerful aftershock in the area of northern Japan damaged by a major earthquake last week caused brief panic and tidal wave warnings as far south as Tokyo Sunday.

The 7.3 Richter scale tremor struck at 4.56 p.m. (0756 GMT) in the Pacific Ocean off Japan's northern Hokkaido island. The Japan Meteorological Agency kept tidal wave warnings in effect for two hours.

A 7.9 quake last Tuesday caused significant damage in the area, including Russia's nearby Kurile Islands, where up to 10 people died. The tidal wave warnings covered Japan's Pacific Ocean coast from the northern part of Hokkaido down to Shizuoka prefecture, between Osaka and Tokyo.

The Meteorological Agency said it had received no reports of casualties or damage. Russia said the quake was felt in its southern Kurile Islands but it had no NHK public television urged residents to stay away from coasts when the latest tremor hit.

"Huge tidal waves could hit the area all at once," NHK said. But the danger passed and shortly before 7 p.m. the agency announced: "Now we have no fears of Tsunami (tidal waves)."

After last Tuesday's 7.9 quake, tidal waves of up to 173 cm (six ft) lashed Nemuro port in eastern Hokkaido. They fizzled out in the Pacific before reaching the Hawaiian Islands and Central America.

Railway officials said today's quake briefly paralysed rail traffic in eastern Hokkaido, 850 kilometres north of Tokyo. Hokkaido is the most sparsely populated of Japan's four main islands with farming and fishing the main industries.

Today's earthquake occurred in the same area as the one which hit northern Japan Tuesday, an agency spokesman said. "Therefore, we believe it was part of a series of aftershocks felt in the area since last Tuesday."

"There will be more aftershocks for the time being although probably minor ones," he said. Japanese authorities said Sunday that more than 1,500 people were hurt in Tuesday's earthquake in the southern Kurile Islands while 300 people were injured in Hokkaido.

Seismologists regard northern Japan as a region of huge quakes. An earthquake measuring 7.8 which hit Hokkaido in mid-July last year killed some 2,000 people.

Gen. Bizimungu told AFP Friday that he believed in a negotiated return of the Hutu refugees in neighbouring countries, and maintained that he was not planning any imminent raids.

Capt. O'Brien, who is field director here for the Irish aid agency GOAL, warned however: "If nothing happens soon, someone will take over from Bizimungu."

Rwanda border raids 'possible'

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — Hardline elements among refugee Hutu officers could depose their commander and mount guerrilla raids across the Zaire border into Rwanda unless agreement is reached soon to allow Hutu refugees to go home, an Irish army captain warned Sunday.

Captain Declan O'Brien, 33, said that if a stand-off on repatriating the hundreds of thousands of Hutus continued, hardliners could oust Major General Augustin Bizimungu, the defeated army's chief of staff who controls his troops from a small camp eight kilometres (five miles) along a rutted dirt road from one of the main refugee camps on the Zaire-Rwanda border.

Details of the massacre are only now coming to light, Jose Anselmo of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said this weekend. "The patients did not understand what was happening. They started to wander around, singing, with their hands in the air," said Marianne Njawayezu, a social assistant at the hospital.

Rebel attack 'will not stop' Sri Lanka talks

COLOMBO (R) — Peace talks between Sri Lankan Tamil rebels and a government team will go ahead next week despite a rebel attack on a food ship Sunday morning, a member of the team said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting for a separate state in the north and east for the minority Tamil community, on Sunday exploded a sea mine underneath the food ship Ocean Trader which has partially sunk.

Navy boats rescued the 16 people on board. The rebel strike is the second on a ship in three weeks. The Tigers sank a navy patrol boat on Sept. 20, killing or capturing two officers and 25 sailors. The army last week called off an offensive involving 15

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Gulf: New twist of destiny

UNDER THE summer of 1990? Iraq then had a crisis with Kuwait. Negotiations failed to remove the tension and the world woke up to the news of Iraqi troops invading the emirate on the first Thursday of August. Today, four years later, the fact remains that the Iraqis are still living with the catastrophic consequences of the Gulf crisis and war that followed the invasion. This is why Iraq should not set the stage for another disaster in the area, neither now nor later. Nothing could justify a new invasion of Kuwait and there is no reason to believe that a military action would succeed in redressing the unacceptable circumstances that prevail in the Gulf. Invading Kuwait is a mistake that Iraq should not make. Like in the second Gulf War, the Iraqis, the rest of the Arabs and the stability of the region would be the victim of such a move. Iraq would be defying reason, jeopardising its own interests and serving those of the enemies of the Arab World by inviting a new war to the area, a war that Iraq simply cannot win.

That said, the new developments in the region assert that the international community has failed to remove the seeds of conflict from the region. The U.S. troops that led the war against Iraq went back after destroying Iraq's military capabilities. But the West is yet to prove that their real aim behind that war was to implement international legitimacy and securing the human rights of the people of the area.

It is clear by now that what the U.S. and its allies want is the toppling of the Iraqi regime. Their determination to achieve this goal seems to have blinded them to the price the Iraqi people are paying as a result of the sanctions. Images of dying Iraqi children and confirmed reports of extreme suffering by that people have failed to prompt any efforts by the United Nations to help alleviate the suffering of Iraqis who are victims of the sanctions as much as they were victims of the Gulf War.

The situation in Iraq today is a prime example of a short-sighted American-British policy that does not see beyond its immediate interests. That policy has it that the sanctions would push life in Iraq to an intolerable level which would force Iraqis to rise against the regime and topple it. This has not happened four years after the strict sanctions. It could happen in the future but the price paid by then would have been simply too high. The Iraqis' resentment against the international community then would make sure that the new regime would have a lot of scores to settle with it. That would be a recipe for anything but stability in the region.

Iraq has shown enough cooperation with the United Nations since the end of the war. However, the world community has not reciprocated the gestures. That is why the tension is rising anew in the Gulf. The way to ease it is clear: Iraqis should not have to suffer any more, the U.N. has to ease the sanctions and Iraq has to continue to cooperate with the Security Council. It is time therefore for the world to set up realistic policy objectives vis-a-vis Iraq. The nature of the Iraqi regime is a choice for the Iraqi people to make and live with. But it is the duty of the international community to help end the suffering of the men, women and children of Iraq.

The U.S. administration's obsession with removing Saddam Hussein should not render the world oblivious to international norms and the basics of human rights.

...invade Kuwait again, and the world would wake up to the news of Iraqi troops invading the emirate on the first Thursday of August. Today, four years later, the fact remains that the Iraqis are still living with the catastrophic consequences of the Gulf crisis and war that followed the invasion. This is why Iraq should not set the stage for another disaster in the area, neither now nor later. Nothing could justify a new invasion of Kuwait and there is no reason to believe that a military action would succeed in redressing the unacceptable circumstances that prevail in the Gulf. Invading Kuwait is a mistake that Iraq should not make. Like in the second Gulf War, the Iraqis, the rest of the Arabs and the stability of the region would be the victim of such a move. Iraq would be defying reason, jeopardising its own interests and serving those of the enemies of the Arab World by inviting a new war to the area, a war that Iraq simply cannot win.

The lessons of the first war are still fresh in our minds, but they are yet to be digested by others. It is a matter of destiny for the whole Gulf region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NO ONE can deny that life in Iraq has become intolerable and the U.N. embargo is no more justified since Iraqi leadership has complied with all U.N. Security Council requirements, said a columnist in Al Dustour Sunday. But it is unreasonable to see the Iraqi leadership opting for suicide driven by desperation and adamant U.S. administration policies, said Saleh Al Qallab. By moving Iraqi forces towards Kuwait, the Iraqi leadership is against inviting U.S.-led Western forces to launch strike against Iraq, which would cause further and undue suffering for the Iraqi people, said the writer. He also said that if the movement of forces was intended as a mere threat to Kuwait rather than an assault on the emirate, then this policy is bound to backfire since the United States would not allow such a move. Other U.N. Security Council members, said Mr. Qallab, the writer said that the Iraqi leadership is not in a position to face an international military coalition and the movement of troops would strengthen its case to the Security Council, which is due to convene to reexamine the sanctions regime three days from now.

Human Rights File

HRC's credibility receives a blow

THERE WAS something interesting during the last elections for membership in the Human Rights Committee on Civil and Political Rights. The 18-member human rights body conducts elections every two years for half of its membership. It goes without saying that the members of the committee are supposed to represent the entire community of nations. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights actually calls for electing members with due regard for equitable geographic distributions.

This guideline for electing the "experts" that man the committee has never been strictly followed since the regulations did not stipulate in black and white terms the quota for any region of the world, leaving the objective of giving due regard to the principle of fair geographic representation to the discretion of the member states in the covenant. The erosion of equitable geographic representation has in fact been going on for years with certain regions of the world gaining seats at the expense of other areas. The Western world, in particular, has been able to steadily gain more seats on the committee. The imbalance between continents and regions, both geographic, religious and cultural, has never deteriorated to the level that it has reached during the last September elections, when the Arab and Muslim worlds found themselves suddenly with only one seat instead of the usual three to four. It has been traditional, for example, to elect two or at least one Arab Middle Eastern country to the committee. There was a time when Syria and Iraq or Jordan and Iraq were represented on the human rights body. Now not a single

Arab country from the Middle East serves on the committee. The same goes for the Islamic World where it has been traditional that Muslim countries would end up with two seats in order to reflect the Islamic religion and culture in the deliberations of the committee.

All this has changed. Israel surprised everybody by being elected with a strong majority of the vote. Israel ran on the Western ticket and it seems it did it alone instead of the Arab states involved in the peace process cashed in on the peace process. There was a time when it would have been unthinkable to elect Israel to U.N. bodies. This also changed with the Arab World paying the price. From the Arab and Muslim worlds only Egypt was elected.

The Western group controls more than half of the 18-member body. Latin America received four seats instead of the usual two or maximum three with Africa losing grounds considerably. If we view the whole issue from a cultural point of view and add the Latin American experts to the other Western ones, then what you have now is essentially a Western or Western-oriented human rights tribunal that is supposed to represent the entire international community in all its manifestations.

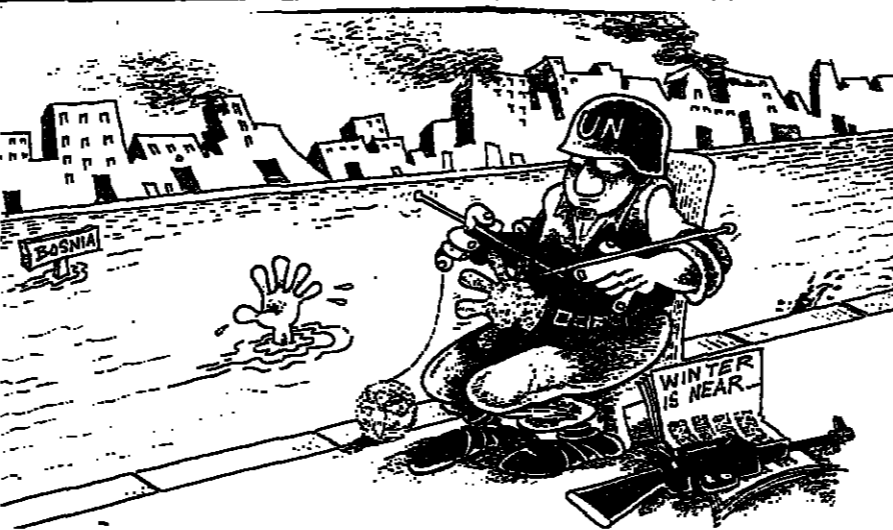
The cohesion of the Western group could account for its success to get most of its nominees elected. The lack of such coherence among Arab and Muslim countries could explain their failure to send more than one country to the committee.

Now we may have to be concerned about the reaction of the Third World countries to the erosion in their representation on the Human Rights Committee. The implica-

tions for them are plenty since the Third World tends to interpret the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights differently from the Western groups. The first casualty of the results of the voting is the loss of the much cherished balance in the committee's perspective on civil and political rights, which happens to encompass practically all the relevant human rights principles. The committee has already been charged with being too Western in its perspective on human rights. If one keeps in mind that the degree of cooperation between the Third World countries and the committee is anything but real or serious, the new makeup of the committee would most likely make such judgements and rulings. The second casualty could be the First Protocol of the Covenant. Under this protocol, countries accept the jurisdiction of the committee to make rulings on private complaints. There is reason to believe now that the number of countries which would opt for second jurisdiction to the committee over private complaints from its own nationals because the committee's composition is so lopsided!

To me, the answer to these problems would lie in amending the covenant in such a way as to prescribe in black and white terms the equitable geographic representation by according each region or group a specific quota. This way countries would then have to vote equitably by knowing well in advance that no group of nations can unduly trespass on the rights of other groups for representation.

M. KAHIL



Iran's leaders try to stay ahead of critics

By Scheherazade Daneshkhu

MOST IRANIANs tend to subscribe to one of two explanations for their economic plight: that prices are kept deliberately high to keep their minds off politics; or that clerics are incapable of running an economy.

Such disaffection is a valuable political weapon in the hands of opposition groups. The latest denunciation of Iran's clerical rulers, headed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader, came last week from a retired army general.

General Azollah Amir Rahimi, who was a general after the overthrow of the Shah in 1979, last week called for an end to censorship, the resignation of the government and free elections.

Gen. Rahimi, a former commander of the Tehran military police, is one of a dwindling band of elderly Tehran-based opposition figures reluctantly tolerated by the regime — although they are arrested from time to time — mainly because it does not regard them as a serious threat.

Opponents of the regime also point to Iran's growing debt burden in recent years. The country had an unblemished payments record until 1992 when an import spree resulted in delays in payment of letters of credit. The man widely held responsible for this and for

falls in the value of the rial. Hossein Adeli, stepped down as governor of the central bank three weeks ago, having seen out his five-year term despite fierce criticism by sections of the *majlis* (parliament) and press. Before leaving office, Mr. Adeli managed to organise the rescheduling of at least \$80n of Iran's total \$20bn-\$30bn debt.

Critics of Mr. Adeli's policies will not be heartened by his replacement — Mohsen Nurbakhsh, economic adviser to Mr. Rafsanjani and, until August last year, minister of economics and finance who was unseated after losing a vote of confidence in the *majlis*. He is returning to an old job — he was governor of the central bank from 1981-86 when he established a reputation as an able administrator.

Mr. Nurbakhsh stressed that there would be no shift in direction in the central bank's policies and that he would be "making the least changes in rules and regulations. I think that the changing of rules is an impeding factor in economic growth and development."

An economics graduate of the University of California, he said he intended to establish normal banking ties with other countries and to put banking services at the centre of the financial and business community, so that "there is little need for referring to unofficial networks and those operating outside the banking system."

Mr. Nurbakhsh also said that he aimed to create a single exchange rate and on Sunday, he made a move in this direction by declaring transactions outside banks or authorised exchange houses illegal. Last week the Tehran daily, *Abrar*, reported dozens of arrests of illegal dealers.

A short-lived attempt at unifying the three main exchange rate bands was abandoned in May, after a steep fall in the exchange rate towards the end of last year. The free market value of the Iranian rial has fallen to one-fortieth of its value against the dollar since 1979 but the dollar's official exchange rate is 1,750 rials.

The fall in the rial's value has made exports more expensive but at the same time prices for oil, on which the state depends for more than 80 per cent of its foreign exchange, remain relatively low.

High inflation has been a persistent problem, exacerbated in the late 1980s by the central bank printing money to help the government meet its budget deficit. Last month, Ayatollah Khamenei again drew attention to the problem of inflation: "High prices have created problems for specific strata. I do not believe this problem is unavoidable. Officials should strive to solve the problems faced by these strata."

Mr. Rafsanjani has been trying to shift part of the state's costly economic bur-

den to the private sector. A government coupon system entitling everyone to basic necessities at low prices operates at a high cost to the state. However, Mr. Rafsanjani's attempts to phase it out in favour of cash support for the needy are opposed by the *majlis*, which is worried about the political consequences.

Earlier this month, the *majlis* voted against cutting subsidies on food and medicine costing the government about \$1.7bn a year. However, it approved in principle a rise in petrol and fuel prices, details of which will be debated next month.

Gholamreza Agazadeh, the oil minister, is seeking a fourfold rise in petrol prices from 50 rials a litre (about 3 U.S. cents at the official exchange rate) to 220 rials. The government says that oil subsidies cost it \$11bn a year — almost as much as it expects to earn in oil revenues this year.

Attempts to attract foreign investment have been largely unsuccessful because of continually changing economic measures and shifts in economic direction.

However, late last month Nestlé, the Swiss food manufacturer, signed a joint venture agreement with a private Iranian company to establish a baby formula and infant cereal factory at a cost of \$500m (\$29.7m).

The Financial Times.

Now Japan's pundits see Murayama as here to stay

By Eugene Moosa Reuter

TOKYO — Lawmakers and political pundits gasped in disbelief when Socialist Tomichi Murayama came to power in June at the head of an unlikely left-right coalition.

They predicted he would soon join a growing list of short-lived Japanese prime ministers.

More than three months later, deputies and commentators now say both Mr. Murayama and his odd-ball coalition linking the Socialists with the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are here to stay, barring unexpected scandals.

"I predict he will stay in power for some substantial time," unaligned lawmaker Banri Kaieda said in an interview. "At least until next summer's upper house elections."

"For that, the LDP must be given credit for keeping a low profile and a mature attitude towards their Socialist allies."

Mr. Kaieda, member of the original reformist coalition that toppled the LDP after 38 years of unbroken rule last year, is one of only four non-communist lawmakers not belonging to either the opposition or the ruling bloc.

Public support for the coalition has been growing steadily among a population weary of political instability.

When the 70-year-old Mr. Murayama came to power in late June as the first Socialist premier since 1948, one newspaper poll said only 37 per cent backed him while 41 per cent did not.

Last week a survey by the same daily gave Mr. Murayama a 43 per cent support rate against 42 per cent who did not back him.

"People were forecasting, I think prematurely, that we'd see this adminis-

tration out before the end of the year," said Geoffrey Barker, chief economist at Baring Securities in Tokyo.

Mr. Murayama's expected longevity, however, rests less on popular support for his policies, than on the fact that he has no intention of calling early elections which could trigger a repeat of the past year's political upheavals.

In the opening barrage of parliamentary debate last week, Mr. Murayama's predecessor Tsutomu Hata lambasted the "unlawful LDP-Socialist marriage" and demanded early general election.

In reply, Mr. Murayama raised his trademark bushy eyebrows a tad and quickly dismissed the plea. "We have no room for a two-month political vacuum (to the call elections)."

The ruling coalition and the unified opposition, masterminded by maverick powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa, have few policy differences. Both sides vow to streamline the bloated bureaucracy, clean up messy policies and speed up economic deregulation.

Mr. Murayama's coalition was formed by forces emotionally opposed to Mr. Ozawa's forceful methods over policy issues when his supporters — Mr. Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa — were in power.

Both sides also want to cement a recovery from Japan's worst post World War II economic slump and pursue an active global political role, as shown in the despatch of troops to aid Rwandan refugees in Zaire and Japan's declaration that it would seek a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Last week in parliament Mr. Hata could find little to attack in Mr. Murayama's plans to continue this year's 5.5 trillion yen (\$5.5 billion) income tax to five per cent in 1997.

LETTERS

Irrigation in the south

To the Editor:

THE PHOTOGRAPH accompanying your report on the visit of David Hunt, of the U.K., to scientific and technical collaboration (Jordan Times Oct. 5) shows irrigation by a centre pivot and the caption states that it is Disi water. I just wanted to bring to the attention of your readers that the U.K. government-funded project concerning the Disi Aquifer does not concern itself with irrigation or wheat cultivation. In fact, the scope of our project is very wide and it is intended to assess the total quantity that may be available to Jordan in the near and in the distant future. The project investigation area covers most of southern Jordan, nearly up to the environs of Amman.

The main thrust of the project has been to explore, by very deep boreholes, the conditions of the ground water, to collate this data into a mathematical model and provide the model to the government of Jordan as a planning tool, in its intentions to utilise the water in a safe and a reliable manner.

Shammy Puri,
Project Manager, Scott Wilson Mirkpatrick,
Amman.

Editor's note: The caption simply indicated that Disi water was being used by the system pictured for wheat irrigation in southern Jordan. It made no reference nor connection to any British-funded project.

By Lawrence Sheets
Reuters

GROZNY — On Dzhokhar Dudayev's panelled office wall hangs a huge painting of Sheikh Mansur, an 18th century Chechen warrior who led an uprising aimed at ending Russian domination over his countrymen.

Mr. Mansur's revolt lasted a few years before Russia reasserted a tenuous hold over this land of rolling steppe on the northern edge of the Caucasus mountains. But Chechnya continued to be one of the least governable corners of its far-flung empire.

Now it is Mr. Dudayev, a thin, pencil-moustached former Soviet air force general, who is determined to end two centuries of Russian control over his million historically Muslim people.

Mr. Dudayev declared Chechnya independent after he was elected its president in 1991, with the Soviet empire in its death throes. It is the only one of Russia's 89 regions which has repeatedly rejected incorporation into the Russian Federation.

Since then he has miraculously survived despite being an obvious irritant to the Kremlin.

There have been assassination attempts, armed takeover bids, and now open hostility from Moscow, which has begun to train, bankroll and arm a loose coalition of opposition groups.

Moscow officially recognised the opposition interim council in August after the third mass kidnapping this year by ethnic Chechen hijackers in nearby Mineralniya Vody.

Russia has accused Mr. Dudayev of encouraging organised crime in Chechnya and providing a haven for criminals. It has threatened to intervene to protect its citizens from such incidents.

Chechen "mafia" were among the first and most effective of the gangs operating in post-communist Russia and have a perhaps exaggerated reputation for ruthlessness.

Still Mr. Dudayev thumbs his nose at the Kremlin, leaving open the prospect of reconciliation but insisting that negotiations be conducted on the basis of recognising Chechen independence.

"I fully expect wide-scale aggression from Russia," he confidently asserted recently. When helicopters strafed Grozny airport, an attack claimed by the



Leader of the Chechen opposition Ruslan Labazanov (C) stands surrounded by his bodyguards at his residence in the village of Argun (AFP photo)

Dudayev, Chechen separatist symbol, defies Moscow

opposition, he blamed Moscow.

A series of opposition helicopter attacks have subsequently been reported in the Russian press. President Boris Yeltsin said last week that events in Chechnya were moving in Russia's favour, but repeated a vow Moscow would not use force there.

"There is a process going on in Chechnya which we welcome," Mr. Yeltsin told a Kremlin news conference. Mr. Dudayev rules out negotiations with the opposition, dismissing them as "a collection of murderers, thugs and rapists" sent by Moscow to do its dirty work.

There have been several armed clashes between Mr.

Dudayev's men and the opposition groups since Moscow stepped up its support. But Mr. Dudayev's forces have generally prevailed.

The opposition all assert that Chechnya must in some form or another remain part of Russia. They condemn Mr. Dudayev for closing down its parliament in the summer of 1992.

They accuse him of amassing power, of nepotism and stealing revenue from the republic's oil industry. They blame him for its economic crisis, growing poverty and lawlessness.

Umar Avturkhanov, a 50-year-old former high-ranking Chechen communist, leads the largest anti-Dudayev contingent and is

head of the interim council. He does not hide the Russian help.

"The government of Russia regards us as the legal government of Chechnya. In the budget we receive from Moscow there are provisions for all kinds of expenses, including military ones," he said wryly, dressed in military fatigues and speaking in his makeshift headquarters in the north Chechen town of Znamenskoye.

Outside, new volunteer fighters milled around near T-62 tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

"Dudayev can accuse me of being a KGB agent but there can be no Chechnya without Russia," he says.

To his staunchest supporters Mr. Dudayev is a symbol of liberation, a heady promise that Chechnya can be more than a Russian fiefdom.

Many of them remember the winter day just over 50 years ago when Soviet dictator Josef Stalin began deporting the entire population of the Chechen-Ingush autonomous district to Kazakhstan, fearing they would collaborate with the Nazis.

Out of 800,000 people packed into cattle cars, 239,000 died en route from disease, cold and malnutrition.

Murad Khadzhiyev recalls the winter day in 1944 when at the age of nine he, two brothers and his

mother were rounded up for their long journey. They would spend 13 years in exile.

"I remember the screams of my younger brothers, the fires from buildings they set on fire, my aunt being left to die because she was ill and unable to travel. A child's eyes never forget," he said. "It was the Russians who did this."

Mr. Avturkhanov and other opposition figures say the Russians cannot be blamed for the deportations and that millions suffered indiscriminate repression as a result of the Soviet system.

The return of former Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to his native Chechnya has

added another wild card.

Mr. Khasbulatov was jailed for five months by President Boris Yeltsin for his role in trying to overthrow him before being released under an amnesty. He arrived in August and announced he was embarking on a "peace mission," speaking to curious crowds across his ethnic homeland.

His calls for peaceful protest to remove Mr. Dudayev were quickly replaced by a more hostile line. "In a few weeks we will have 60,000 to 70,000 armed men," Mr. Dudayev will not be able to stand against us, he told one recent demonstration.

No doubt Moscow could oust Mr. Dudayev, whose

forces would be no match militarily for the Russian army. But it would prove costly in lives and destabilise the whole north Caucasus region. For now it is hoping the Chechen opposition can do its work for it.

Movladi Udogov, Mr. Dudayev's pistol-carrying minister of information and close confidant, summed up the fatalistic view of his camp: "In the end, I am sure about one thing, that there will be war with Russia. They won't let us live in peace."

Who will win? "We Muslims believe that even if you fight and lose, you are still victorious," Mr. Udogov said with a smile.

Tension runs high in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

cept to say "there is a large number of them, and every day it is growing."

Earlier reports said the number of demonstrators was expected to swell to 20,000.

Sheikh Zulfari, originally from Kuwait, recently set up a rights group for "bedouin" in Iraq called Al Shab Al Haq.

Kuwaiti officials claimed an Iraqi force of more than 80,000 men had advanced to within 12 kilometres of the Kuwaiti border.

"The Iraqi forces, estimated at 83,000 men in four armoured divisions, are now 12 kilometres from the Kuwaiti border—that is two kilometres from the demilitarised zone" between the two countries, an official said.

The estimate was significantly higher than the latest U.S. report that Iraq had massed 64,000 troops near the border with the emirate.

The Kuwaiti official also said the U.S. aircraft carrier George Washington was in the Red Sea "in a position from which it can hit Baghdad," and U.S. forces had arrived in Dammam, in eastern Saudi Arabia.

Baghdad has called up young Iraqi "volunteers" to defend their country, newspapers reported.

"The mobilisation was decreed from Thursday for the recruitment of young Iraqis to enlist them in the resistance," reports said.

They would "carry out missions demanded by present circumstances and to defend Iraq," they added.

Iraqi papers said Iraq was standing by its demands for an easing of U.N. sanctions.

It said it would not be scared into submission by Western military power.

Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said that if an Iraqi deadline passed without guarantees of a favourable review of U.N. sanctions "that will definitely take Iraq to the doors leading

to the barns of the world and this is legitimate."

Diplomats believed "the barns" jibe to be a reference to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq also said it was respecting all the clauses of the Arab League Charter unlike other Arab countries, reacting to a call by the League to pull back its troops from the Kuwait-Iraq border.

"We remind our Arab brothers that all the clauses in the charter deserve to be respected," said Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency.

The Arab League urged Iraq Saturday to "respect the rules of the League charter" by pulling back the soldiers reported to be massing near Kuwait.

Mr. Hammadi retorted that the charter should not be respected "in a selective way," accusing Gulf Arab countries of contravening it by partially lifting the economic boycott on Israel.

"This boycott was imposed following decisions taken and reconfirmed during Arab summits," the minister said. The Arab League on Sunday condemned the Iraqi build-up as an "escalation" of tensions in the Gulf.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said that was the only interpretation the League could put on the recent events.

He said Iraqi troop movements began on Friday the day after Iraq threatened to "adopt new positions" after Oct. 10, unless a U.N. embargo against Iraq is eased.

"We don't deny each country's right of internal troop movement, but the troop movement after the statement means one is tied to the other," which "looks like an escalation" of tension, Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

Baghdad Radio accused the West of plotting to crush the Iraqi people.

The radio said the U.N. embargo had subjected Iraq to "an injustice of unproportioned proportions."

A main target of the commentary was Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and installing long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme.

Mr. Ekeus, scheduled to report Tuesday to the Security Council, met Iraqi leaders in Baghdad last week to discuss when the monitoring—a key condition for the eventual easing of the sanctions—would start.

It is not known what he told the Iraqis. But the southward movement of at least two divisions of Iraq's Republican Guards was first spotted after Ekeus left Baghdad on Thursday.

"Ekeus is part of a plot supported by the USA and Kuwait's rulers to take revenge on Iraq ... and to completely crush it," the commentary said.

Despite the tension, Mr. Ekeus said he still plans to submit to the U.N. Security Council a report that "will put Iraq's cooperation in a good light."

Mr. Ekeus has supervised the establishment of an elaborate monitoring network to prevent Iraq from reacquiring weapons of mass destruction, which his team has destroyed since the 1991 Gulf war.

He said there were no indications Iraq was now attempting to hinder U.N. inspectors and predicted the monitoring system would be up and running this week. He spoke to the Associated Press by telephone from his home in New York.

Meanwhile, Iraq said Russia urged it to stop moving troops towards Kuwait and deliver "a clear announcement ... that there is no intention to enter Kuwaiti territory."

Baghdad Radio said the message was conveyed Saturday night by Russia's charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

It said Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sabah responded that people with "bad intentions" in Washington, London and elsewhere were interpreting Iraqi actions "in accordance with their own whims and in order to serve their premeditated aims against Iraq."

Iraq's media have also been intensifying its denunciation of Kuwait's rulers, as they did before the 1990 invasion.

Udai Hussein, President Saddam's eldest son, strongly attacked Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family in his newspaper, Babel, on Sunday.

"They 'harm the Iraqi people and starve them to death while at the same time they open the gates of Kuwait wide open to Zionists who occupy holy Jerusalem,'" the newspaper said.

Baghdad says Iraqis will soon be starving. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported from the Iraqi capital Sunday that "huge crowds" were lining up at gasoline stations and boarding what small quantities of food they could obtain.

Many Iraqis fear that "American missiles might start falling on Baghdad," the agency said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned Iraq against making a "vast miscalculation," as the first contingent out of 4,000 U.S. reinforcements was expected in Kuwait later Sunday.

"If (Iraq) were foolish enough to do that (it) would pay a horrendous price," Mr. Christopher told ABC television.

Mr. Christopher has already added a quick visit to

Kuwait, to underline U.S. support for the emirate, to his original schedule which includes two trips each to Israel and Syria and visits to Amman and Cairo.

He is likely to go to Kuwait on Wednesday.

In his ABC interview, Mr. Christopher said the United States was "in a very strong deterrent mode" with much more hardware already in place in the Gulf area than when the Iraqi army stormed into Kuwait in 1990.

"I would urge (Iraq) in the strongest terms not to subject (its) people to the kind of devastation they would be subjected to if they undertook that kind of an action. This would just be madness for (Iraq) to do that," he said.

Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali called Iraq's ambassador to his official palace in Carthage to express Tunisia's "deep worries" about the situation, movements near the Kuwaiti border, officials said.

The president told Ambassador Munther Ahmad Al Mutlag that Tunisia was committed to Kuwait's territorial integrity and inviolability, the Tunisian news agency TAP said.

Algeria expressed "deep disquiet" over the tension. An official statement said "Algeria expresses its deep disquiet" following the new flaring of tension between the two brother neighbouring states.

The communique said the "consequences can be deadly for security and stability in the (Gulf) region," and added Algeria was following news of developments with concern.

Israel urges more Syrian moves

(Continued from page 1)

when he meets Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres before heading for Syria on Tuesday.

The original programme has Mr. Christopher returning to Israel via Amman on Wednesday followed by a second trip to Damascus.

However, the buildup of

tension on the Kuwait-Iraq border looked set to create havoc with that schedule and he was now set to visit Kuwait on Wednesday in a show of solidarity for the emirate.

U.S. officials expected the secretary to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as well.

Thatcher's son paid 'for Saudi deal'

LONDON (R)—The son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was allegedly paid £12 million (\$19 million) for helping broker a major arms deal with Saudi Arabia signed by his mother, British newspapers said on Sunday.

The allegations could prove politically embarrassing for the former premier, since her son's involvement could be at odds with rules designed to prevent conflict between the private and public interests of cabinet ministers, the newspapers said.

Both the Sunday Times and the Independent on Sunday said Mark Thatcher earned the secret commission for helping secure the £20 billion (\$31.9 billion) arms

deal, known as the Al Yamamah agreement.

Under the agreement, described by the British press as the biggest arms deal of the century, Britain agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with jet-fighters, naval mine-hunters and ammunition.

The Sunday Times said the allegations were confirmed by transcripts of telephone calls between members of the Saudi royal family and its agents in the deal which were secretly taped by Saudi intelligence agents monitoring rival bids.

Further confirmation came from arms dealers and retired British defence officials, the newspapers said. Mark Thatcher had declined to answer faxed questions, the

Sunday Times said.

A spokeswoman for the British ministry of defence said officials had not had time to investigate the report and she could not comment on the newspaper reports.

Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, played an active role in winning the Saudi deal against fierce foreign competition, visiting Riyadh in April 1985.

Five months later she signed an initial agreement which clinched the first part of the deal.

But the newspapers said officials involved in negotiations had protested at Mark Thatcher's involvement, warning that it was politically sensitive and could endanger the deal.

Jordan, PNA resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

the team intended to conclude agreements, including economic accords, in addition to discussing means of developing political coordination.

"Through combined efforts and shared vision, we will be able to reach our common goals to ensure our rights and achieve a just and comprehensive peace which will protect our peoples' interests," he said.

The nature of the two teams which met Sunday reflected the nature of the issues being discussed in terms of bilateral cooperation. The Palestinian side is expected to discuss a possible visit to Jordan by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of PNA.

Jordan has said that it would welcome such a visit but that Mr. Arafat should be prepared to hold in-depth discussions here with a view to settling all outstanding issues and arriving at agreements that would be respected and implemented.

Ghaanem, Minister of Culture Juma Hamdam, Minister of Communications Hashem Dabbas and Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tai.

The PNA team included Economy Minister Ahmad Qouria, who was earlier expected to head the delegation (no explanation was available why Mr. Abed Rabbo was reinstated as the team leader), Minister of Awqaf Hassan Tahboub, Minister of Civil Affairs Jamil Al Tarifi, Minister of Transport Abdul Aziz Al Haj, Minister of Justice Freij Abu Meidian and Mr. Khatib, the head of the Palestinian mission.

According to Palestinian sources, the PNA delegation is also expected to discuss a possible visit to Jordan by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of PNA.

Jordan has said that it would welcome such a visit but that Mr. Arafat should be prepared to hold in-depth discussions here with a view to settling all outstanding issues and arriving at agreements that would be respected and implemented.

Jordan, Israel meet today

(Continued from page 1)

sources; — Post-peace security arrangements.

Some 10 committees and sub-committees will sit on a range of issues from drawing up a border to tourism and the dozens of joint economic projects such as roads, a canal and the development of the Jordan Valley.

U.S. representatives will also attend economic aspects of the talks which follow the July 25 Washington Declaration.

The two countries opened the Eilat-Aqaba border to third country nationals in August and a second crossing is due to open this month.

Israeli officials said major decisions would not be taken at the talks which will be followed by another four-day session the following week in Aqaba.

But there are hopes a peace treaty could be signed soon.

With Qadhafi at bank helm, Libyan economy is slipping

TRIPOLI (R) — Muammar Qadhafi's decision to act as chief banker has created an economic bottleneck of prodigious proportions in Libya, diplomats and analysts say.

Low oil prices on the international market and the freezing of Libya's foreign assets since 1993 have compounded the North African country's economic woes, despite what appears to be a thriving consumer economy in the local souks.

"Not one cent was invested in new projects in two years, only ongoing projects are more or less financed," an international expert familiar with Libya's development told Reuters.

Payments to contractors are long overdue and Libya is in arrears on dues to regional and international institutions.

"Cheques issued by ministries to pay foreign firms are blocked for months, apparently awaiting the green light of Qadhafi, who is now Libya's superintendent of finances," a diplomat said.

The Libyan leader has no official title in the Libyan state and there is no formal decision appointing him.

Arrears owed by the Libyan treasury to Turkish firms working in Libya amount to \$600 million and Korean, Russian and Egyptian firms are also complaining they are not paid, diplomats said.

Organisation of African Unity Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim did not attend the 25th anniversary on Sept. 1 of the coup that brought Colonel Qadhafi to power because Libya did not commit itself to pay its arrears, diplomats added.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation is reported to have threatened to suspend Libya's membership, the diplomats said.

Tripoli shops abound in cheap consumer goods, but diplomats say appearances can be deceiving.

"Tricks in Tripoli's souks cannot hide that the economy is increasingly crippled," says a European diplomat who has been in post in Libya for several years.

Libya's estimated 1993 oil export earnings were between \$6 billion and \$8 billion.

But it is under stringent sanctions imposed since 1992 to force it to hand over two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

These sanctions, which block imports of military equipment, cut international air links and freeze Libyan accounts abroad, have hit just about every segment of the economy.

Not only foreign firms and international organisations

are complaining, Libyan civil servants, the army and public enterprise employees say their salaries often are paid from two to six months late.

Teachers are reported to have gone on strike early this summer during the exams period to protest at delays in payment.

Libyan ships are said to have problems paying duties at foreign ports in the Middle East, diplomats added.

Early this year, official reports said some of Libya's factories were running at about 50 per cent of capacity, mainly because raw materials are in short supply.

Even the oil industry, until recently spared by austerity measures, is affected by lack of spare parts or maintenance, diplomatic and oil sources said.

"Of course, we have cash-flow problems. This explains delay in salaries payments, and commands us to tighten

(the) screw on foreign currencies spending," a state-bank official said.

The state budget for 1994 obtained by Reuters puts expenditures at 3,020.5 million dinars (\$10 billion) with revenues of 2,208.4 million dinars (\$7.3 billion), showing a deficit amounting 812.1 million dinars (\$2.7 billion).

Libya does not borrow on the international market and must draw upon its assets or from domestic banks to cover its budget deficit.

Central bank sources said Libya's assets abroad last year amounted to 1.818 billion dinars (\$6.7 billion), 74 per cent of which represented participations in international and regional funds and financial institutions.

Libyan officials say the country has revised development plans to be able to confront the new situations imposed on it by U.N. sanctions in the Lockerbie affair.

"Priority is for the completion of projects which already started before the sanctions like the great manmade river (an irrigation project) or the iron and steel complex, and for the supply of food and medicine to satisfy the basic needs of the population. There is no more place for luxury goods," the official added.

According to a triennial development plan (1994-1996) obtained by Reuters, Libya plans to spend a total of 6.216 billion dinars (\$20.5 billion), 4.953 (\$18.3 billion) of which from the state's treasury, and 1.263 billion dinars (\$4 billion) from agencies and companies self-investments or loans.

Colonel Qadhafi in September said he was concerned about erosion of the value of the dinar, which has lost up to eight times its value against the dollar during the last three years.

IMF sees China as 'enormous potential market still to be exploited'

MADRID (AFP) — China's huge market rather than its cheap labour force is now the main attraction for foreign companies investing in the country, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

"Although there have been statutory changes to reduce preferential tax treatment and tougher competition for foreign direct investment from neighbouring Asian countries such as Vietnam, China represents an enormous potential market still to be exploited," it said in a half-yearly report.

The report, one of several supplementary analyses attached to the IMF's World Economic Outlook, noted that China was already the world's largest market in certain sectors, such as telecommunications and aerospace.

"The possibility of considerable productivity gains from external trade and structural reform and the substantial investments that are needed in infrastructure contributed to the attractiveness for foreign investors," the report said.

"Access to China's large domestic market, rather than a low cost production base, now appears to be the primary attraction for foreign direct investment," added the report, which largely reflects the Japanese government's recent assessments of the Chinese economy.

The IMF noted that more than half the foreign direct investment in China between 1979 and 1990 came from "overseas Chinese" residing in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and other countries in Asia.

While other foreign investors, such as Americans and Japanese, undertook Chinese projects through Hong Kong, "many of these investors took a wait-and-see attitude, postponing investment decisions until market conditions became certain and favourable," the report said.

Other distinctive features of foreign investment in China include the focus on coastal areas such as Guangdong, Fujian and Shanghai, along with an initial concentration on the real-estate and natural-resource sectors.

"Foreign investment in the service sector, except for hotels and foreign exchange dealings, was largely restricted until 1992 when the authorities began to allow investment in wholesale and retail trade, professional services and other services," the

report noted.

The IMF stressed that foreign direct investment was still only a "relatively small" proportion of China's overall investment, averaging less than seven per cent until the early 1990s and coming to 11 per cent last year.

"China has nevertheless reaped important benefits from foreign direct investment in several areas," it said, pointing to the broadening of the structure of production, technological development and higher productivity.

The IMF also noted the positive impact of generating external demand for Chinese products by enhancing the country's export competitiveness and providing Chinese authorities with concrete models of market mechanisms.

Jitters in Kabul money market; new currency notes spark inflation

KABUL (AFP) — The announcement of the introduction of two high denomination currency notes sent jitters through the Kabul money market, where the afghani has hit a new low against the dollar, traders reported Sunday.

"People are afraid of inflation. They want to protect their savings so they bought dollars," said one money changer describing the afghani's drop from 3,700 to 4,500 against the U.S. dollar.

"It's a disaster. We are heading for the same crisis as the Weimar republic," said

another trader referring to that historic period of German mega-inflation in the 1920s.

Confidence in the afghani melted with the Kabul government's announcement Thursday and Friday night that two new currency notes — 5,000 and 10,000 — would be introduced soon: the highest value now in circulation is the 1,000 afghani note.

Although sample specimens of the new notes were seen at the Kabul money market the central bank did not introduce the new currency as expected Sunday,

which may have influenced the change in the rate from 4,500 afghanis to the dollar by the middle of the day.

Money dealers also referring to an announcement made late Saturday by opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who reportedly declared the new high denomination notes illegal and threatened confiscation and imprisonment for offenders.

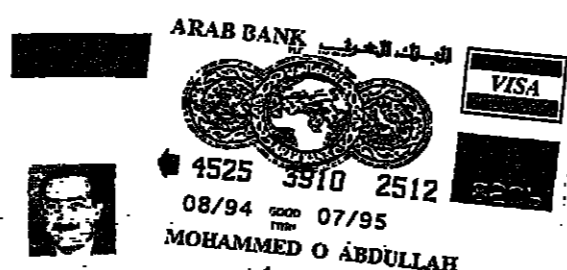
Because the bulk of Afghanistan's imported food-stuffs and consumer items are handled by private traders who must make their purchases in dollars or Pakistani

rupees, large quantities of foreign currency were bought up Saturday, forcing the afghani down in value, said money market dealers.

Food and fuel prices in Kabul Sunday morning reflected the devaluation of the local currency, although the afghani's poor recovery might stop this burst of inflation.

Hardest hit by the manipulations of the money market will be the thousands made jobless by the current fighting, and ordinary employees whose salary remains unchanged.

ARAB BANK VISA



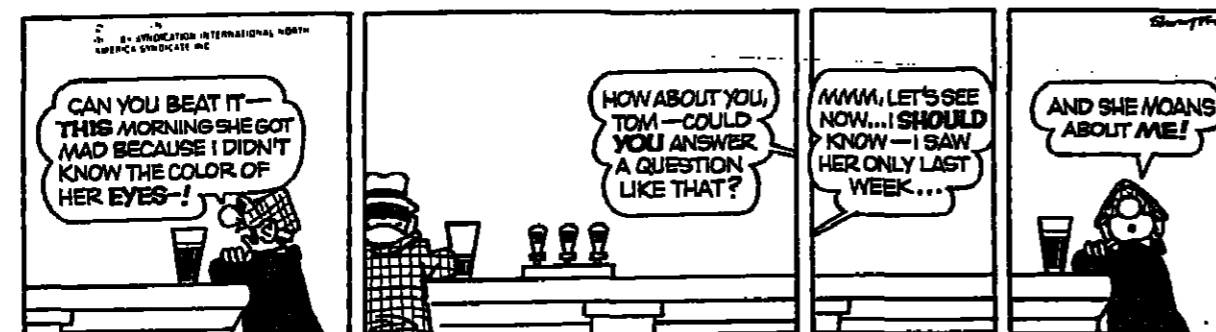
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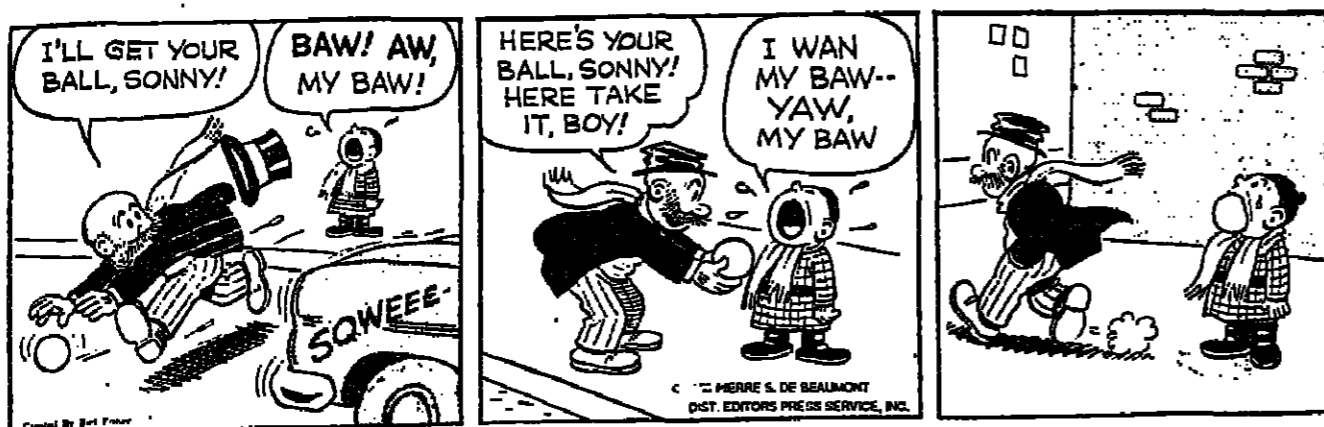
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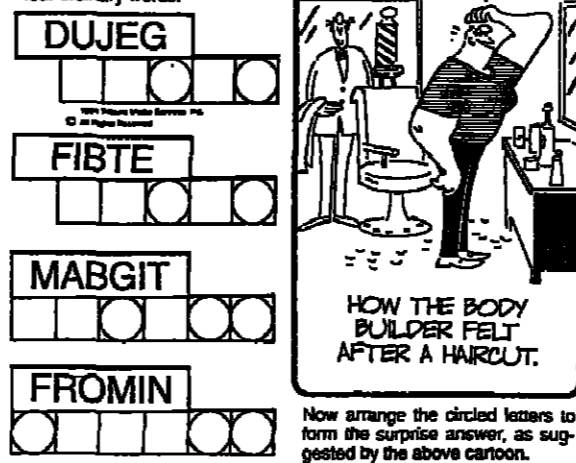
By Glasbergen



"I'm the Wrinkle Fairy and these are my pals, the Flab Fairy, the Bifocal Fairy and the Ear Hair Fairy!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: O O O O AND O O O O O O O O

Yesterday's Jumbles: MUSTY TWILL JUGGLE SALUTE

Answer: What the leading brothers faced in the inheritance dispute — A TEST OF WILLS

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Go out to new sites and mix with interesting new people as you avoid a business tie that is looking for trouble. A co-worker may want to join you in a plan that will prove to be mutually beneficial.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get in touch with as many friends as you can since they can be real assistance to you now. Carry through with plans for a project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can accomplish much in the business world today, provided you seek out bigwigs who can assist you on some new assignment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look for more enterprising and profitable activities to help you get ahead. Follow your hunches which are leading you correctly.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You know now how to please the one you love and be happier together, so don't hesitate to do so and there will be harmony.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to add to your roster of allies. This will broaden your wisdom of events. Start planning a trip now for some exotic place.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Begin the new week properly by looking into more modern ways of handling your interests and career so you can get ahead in your chosen field.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to come to better terms with partners and to add others who can be helpful. Utilize a more modern outlook on life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more enthusiastic about the tasks you have to do and this impresses higher-ups and fellow associates. Take health treatments to look good.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Find more modern ways of enjoying yourself and be sure you dress correctly. Have a more cheerful outlook on the way you live.

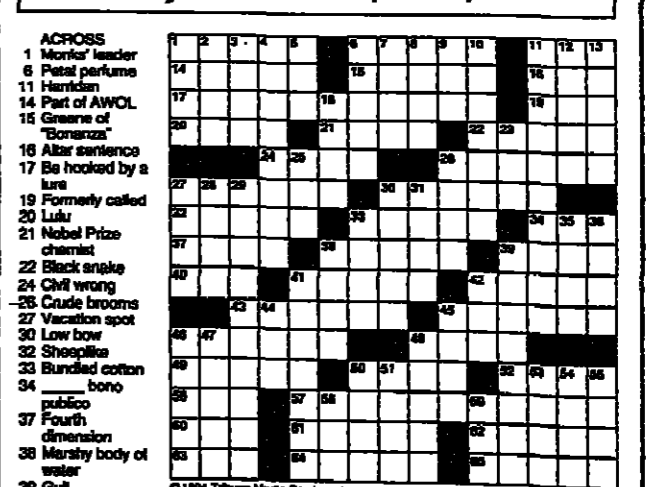
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Put some life in your home living and get out of the dull rut you may be in. Invite interesting people to your home for a good time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find the best way to increase production and be more alert at whatever else you may be doing. Think logically about how to complete a new project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get busy with money ideas and get good results and become more prosperous. Talk to one who has been successful with any business ideas.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



Across: 1. Monitor leader, 6. Past perfume, 11. Herkimer, 14. Part of AWOL, 15. Gnarly of "Boreas", 16. After sentence, 17. Ba hooked by a lure, 19. Formerly called, 20. Lulu, 21. Nobel Prize, 22. Black snake, 24. Civil wrong, 25. Cattle brooms, 27. Vacation spot, 30. Low bow, 32. Shoeless, 33. Bundled cotton, 34. ... bono, 37. Fourth dimension, 38. Murky body of water, 39. Gull, 40. Mountain, 41. Tighen up, 42. Folklore dwarf, 43. City on the Rio Grande, 45. Staircase, 46. Excellent, 48. Existing before a conflict, 49. Our, 50. Estimate, 51. Saxon capital, 52. Trade-co, 56. From, 57. Fight, 58. Starburst, 61. Mellow, 62. ... dash (for culture), 63. Godlike of the dawn, 64. Inhibit, 65. English river.

Down: 2. Haul, 3. Use the oven, 4. Hint, 5. Asian holiday, 7. Soliloquy start, 8. Sallow, 9. Black cuckoo, 10. Certain fire, 11. Stupid one, 12. Slightly a legacy, 13. Goshawk, 18. Inure, 19. Goshawk, 23. Pretty, 25. Vain contents, 26. Corker, 27. Certain, 28. French, 29. Vain, 31. Litter, 32. Ring of elastic, 33. Crosscut, 34. City well-known, 35. This can be near, 36. Boon's area, 37. Rattle's river, 38. Haul, 39. Bedazzle, 45. Frost, 46. Chatter, 47. Faced relation, 48. Rattle's river, 49. 50 "1" unit, 51. Seeger or Rice, 52. Appropriate, 53. Before, pret., 54. Sea bed, 55. Horizontal mine, 56. Brev, 57. Appropriate.

Financial Markets
Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 3 - October 7, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar appreciated sharply against the yen at the end of last week, as it ended 1.44 per cent higher against the Japanese currency. The dollar depreciated against the yen and sterling.

The dollar depreciated in New York Monday despite the fact that the U.S.-Japan trade negotiations at the end of last week has resulted in a partial agreement. Analysts indicated the dollar depreciation was due to the fact that the two sides failed to reach an agreement concerning the auto industry.

The dollar continued its depreciation against the mark and the pound Tuesday, while it appreciated marginally against the yen. News that a vote on GATT might be postponed if publicans withdrew their support, contributed to the dollar's decline.

Wednesday witnessed a continuation of the dollar's decline against the mark and sterling. The U.S. currency's depreciation was as a result of the decline in the prices of U.S. stocks and bonds. The U.S. financial markets reacted to the announcement of factory orders statistics showing an increase of 4.4% in August, the highest increase since December 1992. Such results have contributed to the belief that the U.S. economy is experiencing accelerating growth and thus might be undergoing inflationary pressures. In the meantime, analysts are not sure about the Federal Reserve's possible move, whereas they stressed that the Fed might tighten its monetary policy in the short run to curb inflationary pressures.

The dollar appreciated against the yen Thursday, while it depreciated against sterling and stabilized against the mark. Analysts indicated that the dollar has benefited from the optimism about the future of the U.S.-Japan trade negotiations.

The dollar continued its appreciation Friday influenced by reports that Iraqi troops were moving towards Kuwait borders. Reports have indicated that European dealers were buying dollars as a safe-haven currency as a result of their concern regarding possible military conflict in the Gulf area that might contribute to an increase in the oil prices. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5470 marks, 1.61 yen at \$1.5865 to the pound sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

| Currency | 30/9/1994 | 7/10/1994 | Percent Change |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.5800 | 1.5865 | 0.41% |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.5501 | 1.5470 | 0.20% |
| Swiss Franc | 1.2859 | 1.2804 | 0.43% |
| French Franc | 5.2925 | 5.2655 | 0.13% |
| Japanese Yen | 99.16 | 100.61 | 1.44% |

1 USD per 100

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

| Currency | 30/9/1994 | 7/10/1994 | 1-Month (%) | 3-Month (%) | 6-Month (%) |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| U.S. Dollar | 4.75 | 5.57 | 4.95 | 5.03 | 5.03 |
| Sterling Pound | 5.18 | 7.06 | 5.31 | 7.00 | 7.00 |
| Deutsche Mark | 4.68 | 5.43 | 4.75 | 5.50 | 5.50 |
| Swiss Franc | 3.56 | 4.37 | 3.75 | 4.50 | 4.50 |
| French Franc | 5.28 | 6.25 | 5.31 | 6.37 | 6.37 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.12 | 2.50 | 2.09 | 2.50 | 2.50 |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 million dollars or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.698 | 0.700 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1055 | 1.1110 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4522 | 0.4545 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.5439 | 0.5466 |
| French Franc | 0.1319 | 0.1326 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.0029 | 0.0030 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.4029 | 0.4049 |
| Swedish Krona | --- | --- |
| Italian Lira | 0.0443 | 0.0445 |
| Belgian Franc | --- | --- |

Per 100

MEES sees Gulf banks healthier, stronger

NICOSIA (R) — Gulf banks have become healthier though more difficult trading conditions, particularly in Saudi Arabia, may make large profit increases tougher to attain, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) has said.

In its annual review and ratings of Gulf banks, the Cyprus-based newsletter said there were almost no problem banks in the region any longer.

"But a big question mark does remain over banking capacity. The funding and restructuring of major infrastructural projects in the region is frequently beyond the capability of local banks, and this situation is likely to continue," it said.

Out of the 71 locally incorporated Gulf banks that have reported 1993 results, only one, Saudi Arabia's Aljazira, reported a loss.

"Banks in Saudi Arabia... are having to work harder to make more money now that high-yielding government securities have started to run off and economic activity in the kingdom has slowed," it said.

"The spectacular increases recorded by Saudi banks in recent years are therefore not expected to continue, although modest rises should be possible."

Oil market shrugs off Iraqi military moves

ABU DHABI (AFP) — World oil markets were slightly jolted by Iraqi military movements this week but they quickly stabilised after Western warnings against any fresh adventure and Kuwaiti assurances there was no threat to the flow of its oil exports, experts said Sunday.

A new seizure of Kuwait by Iraq could deprive the market of two million barrels per day (b/d) of oil, but crude prices are unlikely to soar the way they did after the August 1990 invasion of the emirate, because Saudi Arabia and other regional producers have the capacity to offset the loss, the experts said.

"According to my information, Kuwait has adopted protection measures for its oil facilities with the help of the United States," a Gulf-based oil analyst told AFP.

"I do know what such measures are but they are among several factors that will likely maintain order in the oil market," he said.

"The main factor is that Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have the capability to make up for any loss of oil supplies, even if Kuwait's crude exports are completely stopped. This is supported by the fact that Iraq is not as strong as before to threaten other Gulf nations," he elaborated.

Oil prices jumped by more than \$1 to an eight-week high

of \$17.32 on Friday after news broke that thousands of Iraqi troops were moving towards the Kuwaiti border. But they closed at \$16.90 on the same day.

That contrasted with the situation in 1990 when prices rocketed above \$40 after Iraqi forces occupied Kuwait and advanced towards Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, with more than a quarter of the total world crude reserves of around one trillion barrels.

Although prices later started to fall after the United States and several other countries dispatched troops to the region and Gulf producers maximised output, the average oil price in 1990 was the highest in 10 years.

According to OPEC, the price of its basket of seven crudes averaged \$22.26 in 1990, compared with \$17.31 in 1989 and \$18.62 in 1991. They dipped to their lowest level of below \$10 in 1986 due to a price war among OPEC members.

"I don't think the present developments in the region will have any strong impact on the oil market because Iraq is no longer a country with a formidable military machine and its latest moves are believed to be a political stunt aimed at easing U.N. sanctions," a Gulf Arab oil executive said.

"You should also not forget the large spare production capacity in Gulf states,

Western protection for shipping and the fact that there are enough oil stockpiles and the market is already awash because of overproduction," he added.

Figures released recently by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) showed Saudi Arabia had an extra production capacity of around 1.5 million b/d over its current output of eight million b/d. Capacity is expected to reach more than 10 million b/d next year and nearly 12 million b/d in the year 2000 due to expansion projects.

In the UAE, actual production is estimated at 2.16 million b/d under an OPEC-assigned quota, but capacity stood at 2.5 million b/d in 1994 and would increase to 2.6 million b/d in 1995 and 3.2 million b/d in 2000.

Iran, the second biggest producer in the 12-nation OPEC, has output of around 3.6 million b/d but its capacity is estimated at four million b/d. It will rise to 4.2 million b/d in 1995 and five million b/d in 2000.

"If the Iraqi moves have any real impact on the oil market, it could actually be a downward effect," an oil expert said. "This could be the case if the U.N. yielded to Iraqi pressure and lifted the embargo. Prices could sharply drop on the mere spectre of Iraq's resumption of oil exports."

Lebanon trade fair brings in big business from Hong Kong to Europe

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon is attracting major foreign investment, with Arab, Asian and Western executives negotiating substantial deals at Lebanon's largest post-war reconstruction fair amid a new climate of business confidence.

"It has been excellent for us. We have met many new customers from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," said Hayat Haj Ali of the Hong Kong-based Solahart International,

makers of solar hot water systems. Ahmad Al Yussef, of the Saudi Arabian aluminium products manufacturer Alupco, said his company was "now involved in some business talks which are quite substantial."

More than 10,000 visitors from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Cyprus and Saudi Arabia visited the five-day "Rebuild Lebanon" trade and technology fair which ended Saturday. It was organised by the British Fair Fairs and Exhibitions Ltd.

A total of 230 companies from 26 nations participated in the event, which was aimed at putting post-war Lebanon firmly on the international business map.

The fair included national pavilions for Britain, France, Italy, Greece and Switzerland.

The Lebanese government has launched a huge project to rebuild Beirut's war-ravaged city centre, in a scheme managed by the private company Solidere, heavily backed by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Edmond Daccache, a Lebanese whose firm sells German-made power generators among other product lines, said follow-up sales would top \$1 million. "We have a lot of new business from Lebanon."

Wali El Hassan of El-Emad Trading, a Beirut-based company acting as agents for a Saudi steel pipes company, said his firm was negotiating several contracts in Lebanon and had also received inquiries from Syria.

Australian, British and Italian firms also voiced satisfaction, many of them seeking to appoint agents in Beirut to serve the region.

Australian exhibitor Peter Salomon, who displayed advanced security access technology, said his company, International Resources Consultants, had decided to open a permanent office and showroom in Beirut immediately.

"We will be committing over \$150,000 for the first year," Mr. Salomon said. Fairs and Exhibitions Ltd., which has gained an international reputation by organising the Dubai air shows, also announced it had entered into a joint venture with Lebanon's Future Management Holdings.

"By bringing our interests together, we have established teamwork... that will assist Lebanon in recapturing its reputation as the commercial centre of the Middle East."

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

BOULEVARD BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHWEISANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663110
CREDITED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN 09/10/1994

| COMPANY NAME | TRADED | PRICE | OPENING | CLOSING | PRICE |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| ABU DHABI BANK | 7,280 | 182,000 | 182,000 | 182,000 | |
| AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK | 7,807 | 3,880 | 3,880 | 3,880 | |
| AMMAN PETROLEUM SERVICES | 19,750 | 3,950 | 3,950 | 3,950 | |
| AMMAN REAL ESTATE | 2,280 | 1,850 | 1,850 | 1,850 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 4,440 | 2,940 | 2,940 | 2,940 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 1,827 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 1,001 | 2,880 | 2,880 | 2,880 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 518 | 1,710 | 1,710 | 1,710 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 18,710 | 3,510 | 3,510 | 3,510 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 951 | 3,210 | 3,210 | 3,210 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 5,840 | 1,600 | 1,610 | 1,610 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 10,402 | 1,880 | 1,890 | 1,890 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 5,950 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 1,460 | 1,560 | 1,560 | 1,560 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 2,959 | 1,640 | 1,640 | 1,640 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 1,460 | 2,980 | 2,980 | 2,980 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 10,520 | 3,720 | 3,720 | 3,720 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 950 | 2,880 | 2,880 | 2,880 | |
| AMMAN TRADING | 385,449 | 2,550 | 2,570 | 2,580 | |

GRAND TOTAL 665,454

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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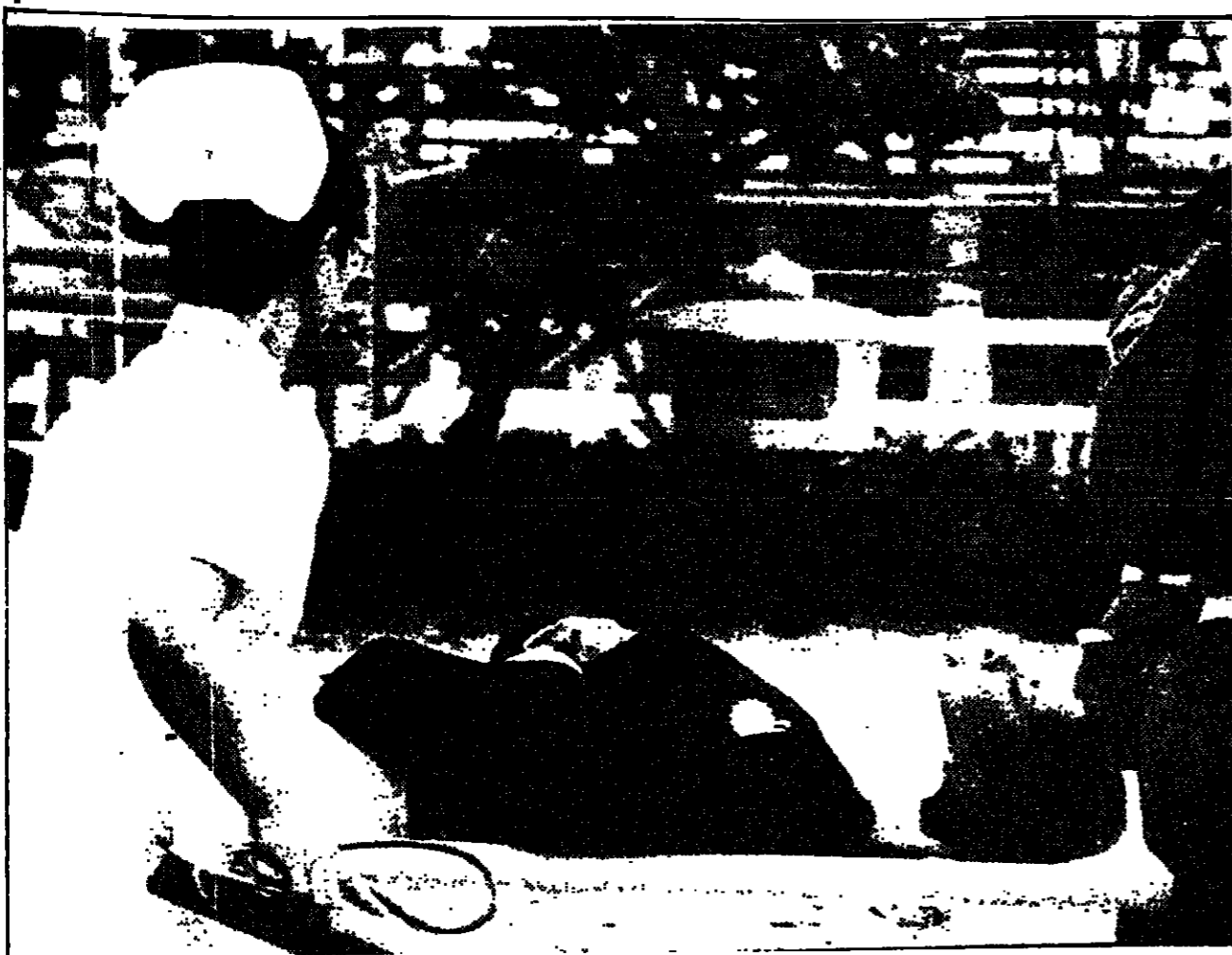
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Her Royal Highness Princess Haya is carried off the equestrian course Sunday after falling from her horse.

Sparky 1, on fence five in the final round of the individual showjumping event at the 12th Asian Games (AFP photo)

Princess Haya only bruised in fall from horse at Asian Games

HIROSHIMA (R) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya was thrown from her horse at the Asian Games Sunday and spent two hours in hospital before being released with only a headache and bruises.

The 20-year-old Princess was competing in the final round of the individual jumping event when her horse misjudged the water jump, causing her to lose control and fall.

"She's going to be all right," her coach Alexander Woelckner said. "She was jumping really well. It was just a miss."

The Princess was the first of the 12 competitors to go in the final round, riding Sparky 1, a horse which also threw her last week during practice.

Competitors in the equestrian events have no

say in the horse they ride, receiving them in a ballot.

Sparky 1 had cleared the first four jumps but then appeared to lose his rhythm as he came up to a 1.5 metre barrier before the water jump.

Princess Haya lay motionless for several seconds beside the water jump and was carried on a stretcher, surrounded by worried Jordanian and games officials.

Security guards tried to shield the Princess from hordes of photographers who rushed to the spot when they saw the fall.

"She was not trodden on by the horse after she fell," a medical worker said.

But Dr. Yoshiaki Tohgi, who accompanied the Princess to hospital, said she may have been kicked during the fall.

"She has a bruised right leg, chest and a headache," he told Reuters. "There are no broken bones."

Doctors at first thought the Princess might have broken her right leg and a rib but a cat-scan revealed no fractures.

"She's in good spirits and is planning to go to a reception tonight," he said.

Japan's Konoshin Kuwahara and Ryuzo Okuno won the gold and silver medals respectively with Thailand's Natya Chantarnsi taking the bronze.

Princess Haya, who was Jordan's flag bearer in the opening ceremony one week ago, is just the latest in a long list of royalty to compete in international sporting events.

King Constantine of Greece won an Olympic gold medal in yachting and

Britain's Princess Anne is a former three-day event equestrian champion.

And many other members of royal families have been members of Olympic squads.

Princess Anne also rode in the 1976 Olympics and Prince Albert of Monaco has been a member of the bobsleigh team in three Winter Olympics.

Spain's current royal family leads the way in Olympic competition.

Prince Felipe, heir to the Spanish throne, was a crewman in three-man sailing class yachting at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and his father King Juan Carlos competed in dragon class yachting at the 1972 Munich Olympics while his mother Queen Sofia was in Spain's yachting team at the 1960 games in Rome.

ASIAN GAMES ROUNDUP

China's women start track and field charge

HIROSHIMA (AP) — China's women, complete champions of the swimming pool, started their assault in track and field Sunday as Zhong Huandi won the marathon by nearly seven minutes — over another Chinese runner.

South Korea's Hwang Young-Jo, the 1992 Olympic champion, won the men's marathon by 44 seconds, but Japan's Toshiyuki Hayata prevented a Korean 1-2 sweep.

Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Indonesia won their first golds of the games — Uzbekistan in canoeing, Mongolia in wrestling and Indonesia in badminton.

With China far ahead in the gold race, Hwang helped keep South Korea just ahead of archrival Japan in the battle for second.

The South Koreans picked up seven golds for the day, including two in their native fighting sport of taekwondo. They also had one each in bowling, badminton, archery and wrestling.

Japan was held to six — two each in golf and synchronised swimming and one each in bowling and equestrian jumping.

China boosted its gold total to 73 by winning five of the day's seven canoeing races, capturing three shooting titles and winning in fencing, table tennis and the women's marathon.

South Korea had 31, Japan 28, Kazakhstan nine, and

Taiwan and Iran five each.

Kazakhstan added five golds Sunday with two weightlifting titles and victories in canoeing, 100-kilometre team time trial cycling and shooting. Taiwan won two in golf and one in bowling. Iran won three wrestling titles and a gold in taekwondo. Kuwait also won in taekwondo, and Malaysia won a bowling gold.

In total medals, China led with 140 to 107 for Japan and 81 for South Korea, Kazakhstan had 33.

In swimming, which ended Saturday, the Chinese women were 15-for-15, with one world record. They also were expected to dominate track and field competition.

Zhong, marathon silver medalist in last year's world championships, began pulling away in the second half of Sunday's race and finished in 2 hours, 29 minutes, 32 seconds. Teammate Zhang Lirong, who was third in the 1993 World Cup, passed Japan's Noboku Fujimura in the last kilometre and finished second in 2:36:27.

Fujimura, third in 2:37:03, collapsed after the finish and was taken by ambulance to a hospital, but appeared later at a news conference.

In the men's marathon, Hwang seized the lead from Hayata with about eight kilometres (5 miles) remaining and finished in 2:11:13. Hayata was 44 seconds behind in 2:11:57. South Korean

Kim Jae-Ryong, silver medalist in last year's Boston Marathon, crossed the finish line in Hiroshima's Peace Park in 2:13:12.

The only breaks in China's domination of 500-metre canoeing races Sunday came when Ivan Kireev of Uzbekistan won in the men's singles kayak race and Kazakhstan won in the two-man canoe race. China took the men's pairs and four-man kayak and one-man canoe races, and the women's singles and pairs kayak events.

After sweeping all three medals in the women's event, South Korea placed 1-2 in men's archery. Park Kyong-Mo beat Chung Jae-Hun 116-114 for the gold, while teammate Han Seung-Hoon lost 115-109 to Taiwan's Wu Tsung-Yi for the bronze.

The South Koreans also won the five-man team bowling with a games record 6,029, with the Philippines second with 6,012. But Japan's Kengo Tagata, already a gold medalist in the men's doubles and trios bowling, took the all-events gold with 5,036.

Malaysia's Shalin Zulkiffi won the women's all events with a games record of 5,016. But Taiwan took the five-woman team title with a games record 5,831.

South Korea's one freestyle wrestling winner was Kim Tae-Woo at 100 kilograms, while Iran had golds

from Nader Rahmati at 48 kilograms, Ali Akbarnejad at 68 and Amir Reza Khadem at 82. Mongolia's Tserenbaatar Tsogtbayar won at 57.

In badminton, Indonesia and South Korea traded victories. South Korea beat the Indonesians 4-1 for the women's team gold, but Indonesia gained revenge with a 5-0 shutout of the Koreans in men's team play.

Table tennis power China swept to a 3-1 victory over South Korea for the men's team gold in that sport.

The Chinese also beat the South Koreans 9-7 for the men's sabre team fencing gold medal.

Japan won both the solo and duet synchronised swimming titles. Solo winner Fumiko Okuno teamed with Miya Tachibana in the gold medal duet.

Japan's Kaname Yokoo won the men's gold with a 12-under-par 276, nine shots ahead of China's Zhang Lianwei, and helped his nation take the team title with a total of 864. Taiwan was second with 866.

Taiwan took the women's individual and team titles. Huang Yu-Chen also had a nine-shot margin, shooting a 2-under-par 286 while South Korea's Kang Soo-Yun shot 295 and teammate Song Chae-Eun 296. For the team title, Taiwan had 583 and South Korea 588.

Late goals set soccer quarterfinals

HIROSHIMA (R) — Japan scored three late goals to set up an Asian Games soccer quarterfinal with bitter rivals South Korea while last-minute goals also advanced Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan Sunday.

Saudi Arabia scored twice in the second half to beat Hong Kong and advance to a quarterfinal against China, while Turkmenistan scored in the last minute to tie Bahrain and reach a quarterfinal against Uzbekistan.

Japan's late goals allowed it to finish ahead of the United Arab Emirates in its group. The UAE thought they had clinched first with a 78th minute goal to tie Qatar 1-1, but Japan beat Burma 5-0 in a later game to finish

on top on goal difference.

That means a quarterfinal Tuesday against South Korea while the UAE plays Kuwait.

"South Korea is an opponent we want to play," Japanese captain Tetsuji Hashiratani said. "So we're looking forward to it."

"We hope to reach the final by taking it one game at a time," he said.

Saudi Arabia was trailing 1-0 when it scored directly from a corner kick in the 75th minute.

"We had some luck," Saudi coach Ivo Wortmann said of Khalid Al Shenaif's low corner kick which the Hong Kong players all watched.

"That was a very, very soft goal," Hong Kong coach Koo Luam Kuen said.

Then Saudi Al Qanat scored with three minutes left to give Saudi Arabia the victory.

Saudi Arabia finished second in Group B behind Uzbekistan and meets China, winners ahead of Turkmenistan in Group A.

"I know they are a very strong team, but in this type of competition one game is different from others and maybe we can surprise China," said Wortmann, a Brazilian who has coached the team since May.

His team included two players, captain Abdullah Zebermawi and goalkeeper Awad Turki, who played on the Saudi Arabian team in last summer's World Cup in the United States.

Japan put Burma under pressure from the opening whistle and most of the game was played in Burma's half, but it had trouble scoring, hitting the cross bar three times.

"We relaxed after scoring the second goal," Hashiratani said.

Taiwan as a new Asia-Pacific operations centre

THE PAST few years have witnessed the formation of regional economic groupings around the world, thriving economies in the Asia-Pacific region, and infrastructural transformation of the Republic of China (ROC) economy. Such developments have brought the Republic of China on Taiwan to a crossroads, at which the ROC must determine the future course of its economic development. At this crucial time, the ROC government has laid out a policy to develop Taiwan into an Asia-Pacific operations centre that can set new records for economic growth.

Although Asia-Pacific countries enjoyed considerable economic success last year and the U.S. economy showed signs of recovery, this was offset by recession in the major European nations and Japan, so the international economy remains mired in recession. Nevertheless, the GATT accord reached in the Uruguay Round of talks, the formation of a new World Trade Organisation, increased Asia-Pacific economic cooperation, and rapid growth of multinational enterprises have brightened economic prospects.

Due to world economic recession, ROC exports to Europe and America slowed down, in sharp contrast to brisk exports to the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, and South East Asia. The ROC's trade surplus shrank subsequently. It enjoyed only moderate growth last year with less private investment and continued business investment overseas, thus dampening domestic economic recovery.

In view of these developments, the ROC government has drawn up a major administrative plan to promote Taiwan as an Asia-Pacific operations centre. This plan will help achieve the objectives of the ROC's Economic Stimulus Package and improve its economic environment. It will

also strengthen its economic relations with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region by building on its present foundation. The principal purpose of this policy is to develop Taiwan into a regional headquarters for economic activities and an operations centre for multinational enterprises, much like the role Hong Kong and Singapore have played in the Asia-Pacific economy. This policy carries special significance for the ROC.

First, the global trend of regional economic alignments, closer Asia-Pacific economic cooperation, and especially the different pace of development in Asia-Pacific countries have given rise to an excellent system of industrial division of labour in the region. Therefore, Taiwan's emergence as a regional operations centre would strengthen the ROC's economic and trade relations with its Asia-Pacific neighbours. It would also contribute to its role and influence in the region's industrial division of labour.

Second, the ROC has been liberalising and internationalising its policies since the mid-1980s. It has relaxed banking restrictions, lowered customs tariffs, and reduced non-trade barriers. The development of Taiwan into an operations centre in the Asia-Pacific region, in practice, throws into sharp relief Taiwan's economic liberalisation and internationalisation. It marks an extension of its existent economic policies.

Third, ROC business concerns have engaged in large-scale investment and technological transfer on the Chinese mainland and in South East Asia. These overseas investments have stimulated the ROC's exports and sharpened its ability to serve as an operations centre for multinational enterprises. This proposal would encourage Taiwan businessmen to

make Taiwan the headquarters for their overseas business operations.

Fourth, the government would, by stepping up its hardware and software development, improve the ROC's investment environment, attract investments by foreign or multinational enterprises, and introduce advanced technologies and facilities from abroad. This would elevate the ROC's technological standards and help upgrade its industrial infrastructure.

Fifth, in view of Taiwan's growing dependence on trade with mainland China, its increased cooperation with its Asia-Pacific neighbours under this policy would diversify its trade markets, thereby reducing its over-dependence on the mainland. The establishment of such an operations centre would bring great substantive benefits to the ROC and other Asia-Pacific nations, lead to the development of a regional security system, and be conducive in the normalisation of Taiwan-mainland relations.

Furthermore, judging from the role played by Hong Kong and Singapore as the two existing operations centres in the Asia-Pacific region, a regional operations centre is contingent on a convenient geographical location with sound economic and social environments, fully-integrated transportation and telecommunication networks and basic infrastructure, sufficient manpower and product resources, and a sound legal system and higher administrative efficiency.

When the foregoing objective conditions are considered, Taiwan at present has the potential to become an Asia-Pacific regional operations centre in a number of areas including manufacturing, technical knowhow, and management; transportation and sales (utilising Taiwan's advantageous geographic location); and service and

business.

Before becoming a newly-emerging Asia-Pacific regional operations centre, Taiwan will inevitably encounter competition from the two existing operations centres, Hong Kong and Singapore, considering the fact that these two places have already been home to the headquarters of many multinational businesses. Research results indicate that Taiwan lags behind Hong Kong and Singapore in transportation and telecommunication infrastructure; a legal system; and administrative efficiency. However, Taiwan has an edge in such areas as production, geographic location, and social and political stability. Faced with these pros and cons, Taiwan ought to seriously consider how to maximise its advantages and minimise its disadvantages as quickly as possible.

Taiwan has no intention of replacing Singapore or Hong Kong. Rather, it is seeking its own niche. When working on building Taiwan into an Asia-Pacific regional operations centre in the near future, it must overcome transportation bottlenecks, upgrade telecommunication service, modernise its finance sector, and revamp relevant laws. Only after Taiwan eliminates all these detrimental factors can the prototype of an Asia-Pacific regional operations centre emerge.

To sum up, the policy of building Taiwan into an Asia-Pacific regional operations centre is in accord with current domestic and international economic changes, and can help Taiwan enhance its economic prowess. In fact, Taiwan indeed possesses the objective conditions to become a new Asia-Pacific regional operations centre. Whether the policy can be successful hinges on the willingness of the people living on Taiwan and the effort they are prepared to make.

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Jordan earns one silver, two bronzes in taekwondo

HIROSHIMA (Agencies) — Jordan Sunday improved its rankings at the Asian Games held in Hiroshima after winning a silver medal and two bronzes in the taekwondo championships. After the end of competition Sunday, Jordan took the 20th place in the medals table with two silvers and two bronzes.

Amr Fayed Al Subeithi added the second silver to the kingdom's tally after losing the middleweight final bout to Kuwait's Hameed Hassan.

The bronze medals in the game category went to Iran's Majeed Amin Torabi and Halim Andri of Indonesia.

In the lightweight category, Yusef Abu Zeid was awarded the bronze along with Malaysia's Rajendran Rajod. The category's gold and silver went respectively to Iran's Fariborz Askari and Japan's Hiroyuki Yamashita.

Tawfiq Nuweisir won the other bronze medal for Jordan in the heavyweight category which was won by Korea's Kim Je-Gyoung.

South Korea finished the taekwondo competition with four victories in eight events. It did not enter the other four.

On Saturday, Jordan's Mohammad Al Zu'bi won the silver in the flyweight class, losing to Chin Seung-Tae. Zu'bi, gold medalist at the 1990 World Cup, had hurt his left hand in an earlier bout and was unable to continue in the final.

Arab World has first sip of swimming glory

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Fishman Masri has given the Arab World its first gulp of Asian Games swimming glory... and earned a house into the bargain.

The Mediterranean Games champion overtook Japan's Masato Hirano in the final 100 metres to win the men's 500m freestyle Saturday for Syria's second gold medal of these Games.

Masri, promised a house by Syria's president if he could win gold here, revealed the key to his success was his nishing power.

He said: "I had planned to go flat out in the final 100 metres."

Masri, who just missed out on a new home when he took silver in the 400m freestyle in Thursday, covered the final 100m in a daunting 57.87 seconds to finish in 15min 29.70sec.

It was the second time in Asian Games history that a swimming gold moves to the west of the Indian subcontinent.

At the 1974 Tehran Games, Israel's Dan Brenner took the 100m freestyle but the country has since been barred from the Asian Games by Arab pressure.

"This victory is not only for Syria but for all the Arab countries," Masri said after he was greeted by Algerian Mustapha Larfaoui, head of the International Swimming Federation (FINA).

"Mr. Larfaoui has given me a lot of support," said the 21-year-old student from Syria's second biggest city of Aleppo. "I also dedicate this victory to our President Hafez Assad."

"Our president has always

encouraged competitors," Mr. Masri said, adding, however, that he had received no financial support.

Syrians are putting on their best Asian Games show yet here, with Rafaat Salti Krad striking gold in the men's 65kg karate contest. Syrians won one gold in 1978, 1982 and 1990.

It was a hat-trick of sorts for Masri, who won the 1,500m event at the Arab championships in Cairo in 1989. He finished fifth at the last Games in Beijing but came back to take the Mediterranean Games title last year.

He concluded by applauding China's swimming success. "I feel happy about it. China is a friendly country and it is good to see them doing well."

Krajicek blasts past Becker in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Dutchman Richard Krajicek slaughtered former world number one Boris Becker in a power-serving duel to win the Australian Indoor tennis title Sunday.

Krajicek unleashed the most devastating service performance of his career in firing 34 aces in a 7-6 7-6 2-6 6-3 struggle lasting two hours 32 minutes.

The seventh seed, whose fastest serve was clocked at 205 kph, fittingly closed the match with two consecutive aces.

"He is definitely one of the best servers in the game," Becker, ranked sixth in the world after this tournament, said of his opponent. "I have never before in my career had to face so many aces."

The second-seeded German, a former Wimbledon, Australian Open and U.S. Open champion, came to Sydney after five weeks out of tennis following his first-round loss at the U.S. Open.

The win was Krajicek's third title in 12 tournaments since his return to the tour in April following a five-month layoff to recover from knee injuries.

"If I serve like that I can beat anyone," said Krajicek, 22, who climbed back into the world's top 20 following the victory.

"My serve and volley game is what wins matches for me and it is now finally back to the level it was 18 months ago," said Krajicek, who peaked at number eight in the rankings last year before succumbing to the pain of damaged tendons in both knees.

"It is a wonderful feeling to be able to play again without pain," added Krajicek, whose serving proved decisive at crucial points during the match, particularly late in the second set.

Down three set points, Krajicek delivered five aces in seven points to take the set to a tiebreak, which he eventually won 9-7.

"Those points were the match," said Becker, 26. Krajicek served a staggering 93 aces during the week, ahead of Becker, whose 19 aces in Sunday's final took his total to 85.

Becker blames over-exposure. Meanwhile, Becker took another swipe at tennis authorities Sunday when he said too much exposure was killing the sport.

A day after threatening to withdraw from next year's Australian Open in protest at recent rule changes, Becker said tennis was in the doldrums because of the crowds and massive over-exposure.

"Every other sport has a long break. Tennis is the only sport where they basically have a major championship every month," he said after losing to Krajicek.

"There is a tournament somewhere every week and people get bored by that much tennis — that is why they don't watch it any more. It is over-exposure."

Italy beat Netherlands to take World Volleyball

ATHENS (AP) — Defending champion Italy beat the Netherlands 3-1 (15-10, 11-15, 15-11, 15-1) late Saturday to retain the men's world volleyball championship.

The United States beat Cuba 3-1 (15-6, 14-16, 15-9) to take third place. Brazil beat host Greece 3-0 for fifth place and Russia beat South Korea 3-0 for seventh.

Both the Italian and the Dutch teams started out strongly, with neither side taking the lead. Then the Netherlands pulled away, taking the score to 10-5. Italian coach Julio Velasco sent in Luca Cantagalli, whose aggressive jump service and defence work changed the set's course. The Italians won the next 10 points in a row to take the set with an ace by Cantagalli.

The Dutch came thundering back. They took the first seven points before the Italians could respond and won the second set 15-11.

In the third set, the Italians exploited the slightest opening in the Dutch defence to win 15-11, despite two blistering services by Olof Van der Meulen that brought the Dutch level with the Italians at 11-11.

In the fourth set, fatigue from the Netherlands' gruelling 3-2 semifinal win over the United States took grip and the Dutch players went down 15-1.

"I think the matches speak for themselves. Italy was the strongest team here for the last two weeks," Dutch captain Peter Blange said after the game.

"I think in our team there



French forward Quedec (left) attempts to keep the ball from Romania's Gheorghe Popescu Saturday during the European Cup match which ended in a 0-0 draw (AFP photo)

was no more energy left to play against them," he said regarding the fourth set. "That is the strength of Italy, because after the third set they gave us no chance."

Italy's captain, Andrea Gardini, also played in the winning team at the 1990 championships in Brazil. "Today the team has changed faces and structure."

Winning like this today shows we are going forward and that we are a very good team," he said.

The Netherlands won the silver medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and never reached higher than seventh in a world championship. They were fifth in the World League which Italy won in Milan this year.

Italy defeat Estonia 2-0 in European Championship

LONDON (AP) — World Cup runnerup Italy gave another lacklustre performance Saturday to take a 2-0 victory over heavy underdog Estonia in qualifying for the 1996 European Championships.

Since its loss to Brazil in the World Cup final in July, Italy, traditionally a slow starter in qualifying tournaments, has been held to a 1-1 draw by Slovenia and in Saturday's game could only manage two goals against a team suffering its 11th consecutive international defeat.

The two other qualifying matches Saturday, France vs. Romania and Armenia vs. Cyprus, ended in scoreless draws. It was France's second consecutive scoreless game in the competition.

Italy's victory, before 4,000 on a bumpy, narrow field in Tallinn, gave Italy the provisional lead in group 4 with four points. Croatia and Lithuania, which are tied with three points, were scheduled to meet in another Group 4 qualifier late Sunday.

Christian Panucci, a rookie defender for AC Milan, scored Italy's opener in the 20th minute, and centre forward Pierluigi Casiraghi headed in the second goal in



Italy's Samuella Papi eyes the ball while the Netherlands' Peter Blange goes in defence Saturday (AFP photo)

the 77th minute on an assist from Lazio teammate Giuseppe Signori.

The experimental Italian lineup, missing several key players and fielding some newcomers, held command of play throughout but did not produce the sparkling offense expected by coach Arrigo Sacchi.

"It was not an easy game and it was difficult for Italy to

produce entertaining play because the Estonians are strongly built and often rough," Sacchi said. "There were good and bad things in our match."

France followed its 0-0 draw with Slovakia last month with the same result at home against Romania in a Group 1 game at St. Etienne. France had the better scoring opportunities, the best

chance coming in the 58th minute when Nicolas Ouedec hit the crossbar from about 10 metres (yards) out. The only time Romanian goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea was beaten on the night. Romania, which won its opening match 3-0 over Azerbaijan, remained in first place in the group with four points. France is third with two points.

President Ramos orders robe into medal hoax

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos has ordered investigators to find out who led him into sending congratulations to a Filipina winner in the Asian Games winning a gold medal, though she actually finished

saying after realising he had been the victim of a hoax. Ramos congratulated swimmer Akiko Thomson Friday after receiving a facsimile message supposedly from the Philippine Sports Commission saying she had won the women's 100-metre backstroke event at the Hiroshima Games. In fact she had finished eighth, more than five seconds behind the winner.

This is obviously an affront to the credibility, dignity and integrity of the presidency," a presidential spokesman quoted Ramos as

'Cheering squad' denied entry into Japan

HIROSHIMA (R) — Japan's alert immigration officials have thwarted another mass attempt to use the Asian Games as a cover to illegally enter the country.

This time 15 Burmese posing as a "cheering squad" for their football team made the attempt.

But it was nowhere near as elaborate as the scam tried last week by 50 Filipinos who posed, uniforms and all, as their country's volleyball team.

The 15 Burmese — 10 men and five women aged between 18 and 37 — were caught Saturday with fake visas in their passports at Naha airport on Japan's southern island of Okinawa, an immigration spokeswoman said Sunday.

The visas were top quality counterfeits, which only experts could tell from genuine ones.

The spokeswoman said immigration officials became suspicious after one of the men was not able to give details about his accommodation in Japan.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

1.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A9863 ♠K9864 ♠A108
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

1.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K9865 ♠A1064 ♠AK7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

1.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K9865 ♠K1084 ♠Q972
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A984 ♠9863 ♠Q106 ♠84
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠95 ♠8762 ♠KJ ♠KJ872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q106 ♠752 ♠K8743 ♠A9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

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No reshuffle is planned - Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was quoted on Sunday as saying he was not inclined to carry out any reshuffle on his government and would resort to a very limited reshuffle only when he was impelled to do that and if it was absolutely necessary.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, a columnist for Al-Dustour daily, quoted Dr. Majali as saying that a reshuffle was not imminent since change in governments should come only in response to political developments that warrant it. Such a change, when it happens, will embrace all Cabinet members including the prime minister himself, Dr. Majali was quoted as saying.

"I do not see any political changes coming up that require a change of government. If a reshuffle is needed to ensure the King's confidence in the government, I

can only say that confidence in the government is already granted. But if a reshuffle is desired to help stop further attacks on the government or any of the Cabinet members, I say the attacks would remain and would continue against any government."

Mr. Faraaneh further quoted the prime minister as saying that Cabinet reshuffles are not necessarily good for the work of governments since they could confuse the public and impede government programmes.

"I hope I would not be forced to carry out any Cabinet reshuffle," the prime minister said. Mr. Faraaneh also quoted the prime minister as saying it is true that all ministries have their own programmes and that a change of a minister does not affect these programmes. "Yet, a minister has a margin in which he can manoeuvre



Abdul Salam Majali

by either speeding up the implementation of plans or by drawing up future plans for the ministry," he said.

The writer also quoted the prime minister as saying that the two previous Cabinet reshuffles were needed to make the team of ministers more in harmony with one another and because the political situation then necessitated the existence of a stronger social and political base to deal with the impact of the Washington meeting and the outcome of the negotiations.

Kansas governor arrives

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to strengthen cooperation between Jordan, the state of Kansas and U.S. wheat associates, Kansas Governor Joan Finney is to head a high-level delegation for discussions with senior Jordanian government officials, members of the Jordanian Bakeries Syndicate and private sector importers of U.S. wheat to Jordan.

Mrs. Finney arrived Sunday on a five-day visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of the ministry of supply.

Jordan is a regular importer of hard, red, winter wheat which is a Kansas speciality. The state of Kansas, popularly known as "the wheat state," is among the largest producers of wheat in the world.

Mrs. Finney, the state's 42nd governor and first woman to win the seat, said in her arrival statement, "We have complementary commodities for the two countries that we can join together. In addition I would like to see cultural and educational exchanges. We have students coming to universities in Kansas, so I believe the friendship we, of the U.S., have enjoyed with the people of Jordan and with your leaders, is something we can enhance, expand and look forward to a bright future."

Mrs. Finney was welcomed at Queen Alia International airport by Minister of Supply Adel Qudah.

Imports of wheat are most of the time financed by loans from the administration.

The annual consumption of wheat in Jordan is estimated at 600,000 tonnes. The government has earmarked about JD 30 million for food subsidies in fiscal 1994.

The bulk of this amount will be spent on subsidising wheat. The two other commodities subsidised are rice and sugar.

Austrian coalition loses heavily

VIENNA (AP) — The governing coalition lost heavily Sunday in elections that furthered the rise of Joerg Haider, a right-wing populist trading on xenophobic rhetoric and a telegenic presence.

The two governing parties — Austria's largest — seemed likely to maintain their coalition. But they lost their two-thirds majority in parliament for the first time since 1945.

Mr. Haider, head of the Freedom Party, dominated the lackluster campaign with his folksy tirades against foreigners, corruption and party politics and calls for law and order.

Mr. Haider's party gained 42 seats in the 183-seat legislature, nine more than in the last elections in 1990.

Mr. Haider had an easy target in the government coalition.



Worried Kuwait residents of different nationalities line up at automatic cash dispensers to the border (AFP photo) withdraw money as the situation in the city remains tense with Iraqi troop movements on the border (AFP photo)

PLO urges peaceful solution as wary Israel watches Iraq

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinians, who backed Baghdad in the 1991 Gulf war, took a cautious line Sunday calling for a peaceful settlement in the Gulf as wary Israel kept a close eye on events.

"We are very concerned about the situation in the Gulf," said the Palestinian Authority's Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath.

"We hope it will not be exploited and that the two countries will reach a peaceful settlement to all the problems resulting from the Gulf war," he said, reading a statement.

"We consider that real peace in the Gulf that guarantees Kuwaiti interests and security and brings security and normalcy to Iraq will be to the benefit of the region and the whole world."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who paid dearly for his support of Iraq last time, told a delegation of Israeli left-wingers there would be no fighting.

Iraq troop movements were "purely a show," the general secretary of the Mapam party quoted Mr. Arafat as saying.

The Iraqi rout in February 1991 saw the expulsion of tens of thousands of Palestinian workers from Kuwait and the oil-rich Gulf states cut funds to the PLO.

During the war, Palestinians in the occupied territories, who were put under curfew by Israel, took to rooftops to cheer as Scud missiles hit Israel.

The Gulf war led to a Middle East peace conference in Madrid the following October, paving the way for the 1993 autonomy deal between Israel and the Palestinians, which hadline factions have rejected.

Israel seemed to share Mr. Arafat's reported opinion that there would not be a new conflict and officials sought to reassure a population marked by the firing of 39 Scud missiles.

In the light of past experience it is imperative that we monitor very closely what is going on in the Gulf," said military chief of staff Lieutenant General Ehud Barak.

"The possibility of a new invasion of Kuwait is very

remote," said Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur after the cabinet heard an intelligence report.

"The Iraqis are well aware of the risk they would run. They understand the world will not accept it. Saddam Hussein is playing a game but he will not go beyond a certain limit."

"They don't have many missiles left and it would be very difficult for them to launch missiles with any regularity. In principle we are not involved," Mr. Gur told reporters.

Military officials said Iraq was trying to pressure the United Nations into easing sanctions. The U.N. Security Council meets Monday to discuss the sanctions and long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons.

The army has previously warned that the day sanctions were lifted a countdown would start leading to Baghdad arming itself with non-conventional weapons.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres branded President Saddam "half-crazed," but the troop movements were designed as a "show" to build his prestige in the Arab World.

Mr. Peres urged Israel not to fear renewed missile attacks.

Yitzhak Shamir, who was prime minister during the war, told Israeli radio: "We have to be on our guard and be ready to face any contingency because it is difficult to know where the madness of Saddam Hussein will lead."

He criticised the U.S. failure to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

During the 1991 war, two Israelis died from the Iraqi bombardment which damaged hundreds of houses in Tel Aviv and the northern town of Haifa.

A Palestinian group in Kuwait meanwhile condemned the Iraqi build-up near the border, saying it could only harm Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular.

The Palestinian Community Council, representing a small community that remained in Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf war, pledged to back the emirate against Iraqi threats.

"The council decided to condemn the Iraqi threats

and every thing that would affect the sovereignty of Kuwait or threaten its security and the security of its people," the council said in a statement.

"The community's council puts itself, with the Palestinian community as a whole, in the same trench with the Kuwaiti brothers in defending the sovereignty of a sister Arab state that has for long given and sacrificed for the causes of the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinian issue in particular."

The council is the only known body representing Kuwait's small Palestinian population, which official figures released in April had put at about 7,100. Some analysts say the actual number might be as high as 20,000.

"The community's council regards these (Iraqi) threats as cementing divisions and differences and weakening the position of Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular," it said.

Shiites fear attack

In Tehran, an Iraqi opposition group said Baghdad was set to launch a new military offensive against Shiite Muslim strongholds in southern Iraq.

The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said the army had been deployed in strength over the past three days in villages near the southern provinces of Basra, Al-Nasiriyah and Al-Amarah.

The troops, backed by heavy artillery and missile and rocket-launchers, intended to "attack positions of the opposition" in marshlands in the region, it said.

On Saturday SCIRI reported heavy movements of troops and artillery in southern Iraq, where several roads from Baghdad have been closed to all but military traffic.

It said troops on the border with Kuwait had been put on alert along with military depots around the country.

Baghdad crushed a Shiite Muslim rebellion following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war in February 1991, but some Shiites hiding out in the marshes continued to form pockets of resistance.

Jordan does not fear 'cultural normalisation'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Culture Jumaa Hamad has called on the entire Arab Nation to unite in the face of the challenges posed by the Arab-Israeli peace process.

In an interview with Al-Quds Press, Mr. Hamad said the current peace process was "the price Arabs are paying for their refusal to admit their defeat in 1948."

In an apparent reference to fears expressed by Arab intellectuals about cultural normalisation with Israel, Mr. Hamad said: "We do not fear cultural normalisation with the Israeli enemy."

He cited the Palestinian people's experience under occupation as evidence to support his argument.

"The Palestinians who are living in the green line areas have never changed, neither in terms of culture, or in terms of short term or long term objectives," he said.

"They have remained Arabs despite the fact that Arabs have helped the Israeli occupation, by closing their borders in their face."

"The Palestinian experience under Arab-Israeli siege has given birth to a number of poets, including Mahmoud Darwish and Samih Al-Qasem," the minister pointed out.



Jumaa Hamad

Mr. Hamad voiced concern over fears by Arab intellectuals about dangers of normalisation, noting that some of those intellectuals had been advocates for western culture. "We do not fear normalisation, but we fear deviation towards leisure and recreation culture, given the technological developments sweeping the world," he said.

Mr. Hamad called on Arab intellectuals to break away from the "hybrid" culture, saying that "this is the genuine answer for addressing fears about cultural normalisation."

The minister stressed that the change of culture and educational curricula were among the requirements of the peace process.

Shahak to head Israeli military

TEL AVIV (AP) — Major-General Amnon Shahak, a decorated commando turned peace negotiator with the Palestinians, was chosen as Israel's next military chief Sunday.

The cabinet unanimously approved his nomination by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also defence minister. Gen. Shahak, now deputy chief of staff, will replace Lt-Gen. Ehud Barak in January for a three-year term.

The appointment of Gen. Shahak, 50, is no surprise. He was the top peace negotiator with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in six months of talks that led to the establishment of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, developing a personal rapport with his counterparts and winning their respect.

The peace talks capped a military career that reflected the sweeping changes in Israel's relations with the Palestinians.

As intelligence chief in 1988, Gen. Shahak made headlines by assessing that the Tunis-based PLO then outlawed by Israel and ruled out as a negotiating partner, was the only viable Palestinian leadership.

That same year, however, he was widely believed to have masterminded the assassination of the popular Palestinian military chief, Khalil Wazir, in Tunis.

As a commando officer, Gen. Shahak was a leader of a daring raid into the heart of Beirut in 1973 which destroyed the headquarters of a PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, killing its top commanders and dozens of guerrillas.

Gen. Shahak, considered close to Mr. Rabin, has held most major commands in the Israeli army. He was commander of the occupied West Bank in 1983 and military intelligence chief from 1986 until becoming deputy chief of staff in 1991.

Mr. Shahak will need his reputed versatility in adapting the military to new challenges like long-range missile threats and Islamic fundamentalism.

Israel may also be on the verge of ceding territories that formed its strategic buffer in the West Bank and Golan Heights — which could fling the army into an unprecedented confrontation with more than 100,000 Israeli settlers in those areas.

Gen. Shahak is a graduate of the army's defence college and the marine command and staff college in the United States.

He recently acknowledged suffering from leukemia several years ago, but maintained he now had a clean bill of health.

Gen. Shahak's easy going but reclusive manner helped him emerge unscathed from potential scandal several years ago when he left his longtime wife and mother of three children for a youthful defence reporter. He has two children from his second wife.

One of his sons is currently a mercenary training troops in Congo, Africa.

Who would have an interest in leaking a Golan pullout map?

The following analysis, by David Makovsky, appeared in Sunday's Jerusalem Post newspapers under the same headline:

THE DISCLOSURE that the IDF favours relinquishing the large majority of the Golan plateau, including most settlements, in return for peace with Syria — as reported in Friday's Ha'aretz — raises the question of who would have an interest in leaking such highly classified information.

The plan, which was reportedly a recommendation made to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin earlier this year, favours the IDF moving to a north-south line stretching from a western section of Mt. Hermon parallel to the Jordan River and the Kinneret. Apart from yielding all the Druze Arabs on the Heights, Israel would also concede most settlements, including Katzin, the largest Jewish town.

Israel would hold on to a two-to-six-kilometre-wide band along the line, including the cliffs that overlook the Hula Valley. The map falls short of a Syrian demand for full withdrawal in return for peace.

The plan was reportedly presented earlier this year by Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran before he became OC Central Command, and is believed to be based on a diplomatic contingency plan drafted in 1975 by IDF planner Abraham (Abrasha) Tamir, known as the "Two Shoulders" plan.

The Tamir-Biran plan appears to further strengthen the idea that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin favours full Golan withdrawal.

During a visit to Washington this summer, IDF Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Ehud Barak said he favoured less-than-full withdrawal in return for peace, while Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Labour Party Knesset faction recently: "Either we go down from the Golan or go down from peace."

This certainly does not mean to imply that either Barak or Peres leaked the highly classified plan; it remains unclear whether the latter has even seen it. However, now that it is out, the question is whether such a leak, timed to occur on the eve of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit here today, serves the interests of those who favour full withdrawal, like Peres, and apparently Rabin, or those who favour something less than that, like Barak?

Spokesmen for the army and Rabin declined comment on the Ha'aretz report.

Those who say the plan was leaked by individuals who favour less-than-full withdrawal have a straightforward case. It would be their way of reminding Rabin that should he be willing to yield the whole Golan, he would be exceeding what the IDF believes are prudent borders in return for peace with Syria.

However, the opposite argument can also be made: Rabin has already announced to MKs that withdrawal would have to be broader than what the IDF has recommended, so he will not feel constrained anyway.

Those favouring full withdrawal also believe the public should realise that even the security-minded military, against full withdrawal, favours relinquishing most of the plateau and evacuating most settlements. The IDF does not see these settlements as security assets.

According to this view, the internal debate over the security value of the Golan after a peace agreement is much narrower than the public realises, and therefore the public should be prepared for the fact the full Golan withdrawal is on the way.

Khaled Al Hassan remembered as leading moderate in PLO

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Khaled Al Hassan, the prominent Palestinian figure who passed away on Saturday, is remembered as an outstanding moderate figure in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership who enjoyed good relations with all PLO factions despite political differences.

Many Palestinians held him in high esteem and saw in him a leader equal in stature with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, with whom he had serious differences over the PLO's approach to peace with Israel.

Those differences led Mr. Hassan to move to Rabat from Tunis, where the PLO was headquartered until Mr. Arafat shifted to the Gaza Strip following the implementation of the autonomy accord with Israel in May.

Mr. Hassan, who will be laid to rest in Rabat today, was one of the founding leaders of Fateh in the early 60s along with Mr. Arafat and the late Khalil Al Wazir and Salah Khalaf.

He was born in Haifa in 1928 and moved to Lebanon when his family was forced to leave Palestine when the

state of Israel was created. He lived in Lebanon for some time before moving to Syria. He also lived in Kuwait for some time and had developed excellent relations with the Kuwaiti government.

Palestinians used to describe him as a pro-Kuwaiti who also had good relations with most other Gulf governments.

Mr. Hassan was a member of the Executive Committee of the PLO between 1967 and 1974 representing Fateh in the decision-making body of the organisation.

Since the founding of Fateh until his death, Mr. Hassan was a member of the Central Committee of the mainstream PLO faction and actively participated in every political decision taken by the group.

Mr. Hassan, who was on very friendly terms with leaders of the hardline factions such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was also instrumental in solving many of the disputes that arose between Mr. Arafat and PFLP leader George Habash and DFLP leader Nayef Hawatme in the 70s and 80s.

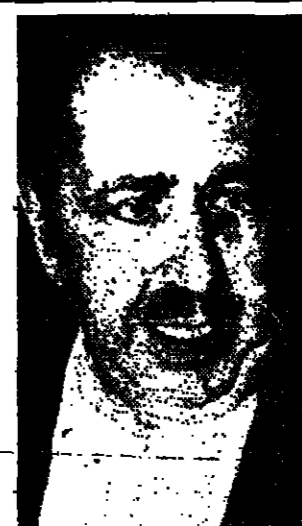
He also tried in vain to bring back Fateh dissidents to the group after various PLO factions splintered following the organisation's ouster from Lebanon after the Israeli invasion of that country in 1982.

However, he differed with Mr. Arafat in the PLO approach to the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and opposed the PLO's sympathy with Iraq.

The differences were further deepened when Mr. Arafat decided to enter secret negotiations with Israel in Oslo in 1992 and Mr. Hassan refused to be part of the secret team that negotiated the autonomy deal with Israel in the Norwegian capital, Oslo.

Mr. Hassan, who served as head of the political affairs department of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and his brother Hani, also a leading Fateh member, were quite outspoken in their criticism of Mr. Arafat. This led to serious strains in relations with the PLO chairman and hence Mr. Hassan's decision to shift from Tunis to Rabat, according to Palestinians who knew the deceased well.

Mr. Hassan stood by Mr.



Khaled Al Hassan

Arafat throughout the crises the PLO chairman suffered and survived after assuming the helm of the PLO in 1968. But the differences over the Gulf crisis and peace talks with Israel appeared to have seriously strained that long comradeship.

Mr. Hassan suffered from serious health ailments for some years before his death. He underwent treatment at the King Hussein Medical Centre for some time.

The late Palestinian leader was an ardent advocate of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and always called for strong relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.



Obsessed woman threatens Kennedy with death

DENVER, Colorado (AFP)

— A woman obsessed with Congressman Joseph Kennedy threatened to kill him after he ignored 16 passionate letters she wrote him, a court was told here. Melissa Keely, 27, admitted Friday making the threats, saying she had fallen in love with Kennedy, 42, when she lived in Boston, Massachusetts.

After waiting for two months for a response to her letters, she wrote, "I am going to kill you... you have ruined my life." She would "blow up your whole family," Ms. Keely said, before writing the next day, "I do not want to kill you. I have been obsessed."

She is liable to a sentence of up to five years in jail and a fine of \$250,000. Mr. Kennedy is the son of Robert Kennedy, late brother of former President John F. Kennedy. He is running in Massachusetts for re-election to the House of Representatives next month.

New York wine auction brings record \$1.5m

NEW YORK (R) — Hundreds of wine lovers battled for some of the world's most coveted vintages, bidding a record \$1.5 million at auction, including \$17,250 for a 124-year-old bottle of Red Bordeaux, Sotheby's auction house said. "It's a record for a commercial wine auction in the United States," said Serena Sutcliffe, head of the International Wine Department of Sotheby's Manhattan Branch. "People flew in from South America and sent written bids from all over the world," said Ms. Sutcliffe, who said that 15,000 bottles were sold during the eight-hour auction.

She said an Asian buyer, whom she refused to identify, snatched up the Magnum of Red Bordeaux, a Chateau Lafite 1870. "I know him and think he will probably open it with friends," she said, rather than letting it age further. "It's one of the greatest vintages of the past century," she said, adding that the weather was perfect in 1870 — "a warm summer and very little rain at the time the grapes were picked." "For the first 50 years of its life, the Lafite 1870s, and other 1870s, were very rough and powerful," she said.

Old books worth \$1m stolen from university

NEW YORK (AFP) — A total of 22 rare books and manuscripts worth an estimated \$1 million were stolen from a specialist library at Columbia University earlier this year, authorities said Saturday. They included a bull (decree) of Pope Innocent III dated 1202, a Latin translation of a treatise of Euclid of around 1300, a Book of Hours of around 1490, a 15th century Saint John's Gospel and eight century-old Arab or Persian works. The FBI is investigating the theft, which was discovered in June but not made public immediately in the hope that the books might be returned incognito. Columbia's rare books library contains more than half a million volume and 28 million manuscripts.

Queen Mother caught couples in the act

LONDON (R) — The Queen Mother accidentally caught a couple making love during a tour of an aristocrat's home, British newspapers reported Saturday. Unfazed by the sight, and as her lady-in-waiting stifled a shriek, she told her host: "How nice. Perhaps we should not go further." The newspapers said the scene is included in a book about Gay Kindersley, a wealthy amateur jockey. Mr. Kindersley was escorting Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother around his home after he thought all other guests had left. When he pushed open a bedroom door, they found a well-known society figure and a woman making love. The girl gasped when she saw the visitors, but the man simply took it as an exclamation of pleasure and redoubled his efforts, according to the book, due out later this month.